

Hafa Adai!

Cab driver with fake license pleads guilty. **PAGE 5**

Joint Task Group-Saipan begins redeployment of forces. **PAGE 8**

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75¢

Back to school after Yutu

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With much of Saipan and Tinian's schools still reeling from widespread damage, classes resumed this week, over a

month after being forced into a standstill by Super Typhoon Yutu in late October.

Classes for the Northern Marianas College and some Public School System schools

started Monday, despite some campuses having to relocate to **See SCHOOL on Page 4**

NMI joins 'national day of mourning'

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Victor B. Hocog signed a proclama-

tion yesterday declaring Dec. 5, Wednesday, as a National Day of Mourning to honor the lifelong service and memory **See MOURNING on Page 4**



U.S. Army Reserve soldiers with the 9th Mission Support Command and soldiers with the Guam Army National Guard present arms during the raising of the U.S. flag at Saipan Southern High School last Dec. 3, 2018. Students with the CNMI Public School System resumed classes after more than one month due to the impact of Super Typhoon Yutu in late October.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 10 cold cases remain unsolved

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 10 cold cases remain unsolved in the CNMI. The Department of Public Safety said

The casket of former President George H.W. Bush arrives at the Capitol in Washington, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. **AP**

it continues to welcome leads that could possibly result in the closure of these cases.

DPS Commissioner Robert Guerrero said that there are over 10 missing person cases that are still open that have gone cold over the years.

Despite this, Guerrero said the department still welcomes **See UNSOLVED on Page 4**

SBA warns businesses vs scammers

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Small Business Administration is warning businesses or employers that would avail of their loans and other assistance to be aware of scammers that would take advantage of their current situation.

SBA public information officer Cynthia Cowell said they are encouraging businesses or employers to have their own accountants or staff to fill out the loan application forms either online or at their Business Recovery Center.

"You can have anyone complete your application for you, **See SBA on Page 4**

INSIDE



LOCAL
The TSL Foundation has teamed up with the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa to distribute relief goods.

PAGE 2



NATION
Children return to school three weeks after a massive and deadly wildfire in California.

PAGE 14



ASIA
President Rodrigo Duterte jokes that he used marijuana to keep awake at a meeting.

PAGE 15



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Bishop Ryan Jimenez, seventh left, and the members and officials of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa receive the relief package coupons from the Tan Siu Lin Foundation led by TanHoldings president Jerry Tan, eighth, left during a turnover ceremony at the TSL Sports Complex late last month.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tan Siu Lin Foundation officials and volunteers pose with families living temporarily at the Tanapag Middle School after handing them relief packages.

TSL Foundation, Diocese of Chalan Kanoa distribute relief packages

The Tan Siu Lin Foundation has teamed up with the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa to distribute relief packages to Saipan residents affected by Super Typhoon Yutu.

The packages, which contained food and personal hygiene and cleaning supplies, came from donations from the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam and Guam Chinese Association that partnered with TanHoldings and the TSL Foundation to reach out to residents recovering from the category 5 typhoon.

The foundation printed 600 coupons, which were then turned over to the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for distribution. The diocese went to villages on Saipan to visit affected families and handed them the coupons that they have to use to redeem the relief packages at the TSL Sports Complex.

"On behalf of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to Jerry Tan for this gift to our people, especially those living in the southern part of Saipan. When I met with Merlie Tolentino of TSL Foundation, Christy Villafior, and Mr. Tan to talk about this partnership, I felt so blessed and thankful for this generous gesture for our people," Bishop Ryan Jimenez said.

"I am also thankful to the many volunteers, my brother priests and religious sisters who have been visiting fami-

lies in the villages. Everyone in our community is doing something and this reminds me of what St. Teresa of Calcutta said, 'Not all of us can do great things. But we can do small things with great love,'" Jimenez added.

Tan acknowledged the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam and Guam Chinese Association for their generosity and thanked the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa. He also recognized the volunteers who helped the foundation in packing the relief items.

"We are very grateful to the Chinese Chamber of Commerce of Guam and Guam Chinese Association for their donation and for trusting us to coordinate the relief distribution efforts in the CNMI. TanHoldings and the TSL Foundation also commend the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa for all the work they do in the community, especially in the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu," Tan said.

In related news, the foundation also delivered donation packages to families living in shelters at Kagman Elementary School, Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, and Tanapag Middle School.

"This is our home. When we are faced with crisis, when we have this extent of devastation, we all need to step up and help our neighbors and friends," Tan said. *(Saipan Tribune)*

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New Year's Day Champagne Brunch January 1, 2019 11:00am - 2:00pm \$40.00/adult \$20.00/child *\$36.00/adult *\$18.00/child	New Year's Eve Special Set Menu January 1, 2019 6:00pm - 10:00pm Set A - \$90.00 /adult Set B - \$80.00 /adult	New Year's Day BBQ Dinner Show January 1, 2019 6:00pm - 9:00pm Alana'ia Polynesian Dinner Show Menu Options Vary	



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9th Circuit denies reducing Montgomery's 20-year sentence

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**

ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Ninth Circuit has affirmed the U.S. District Court for the NMI's order that denied a motion to reduce the sentence of Bert Douglas Montgomery, who was slapped with a sentence of 20 years in prison in 2003 for his role in the conspiracy to defraud the Bank of Saipan.

Ninth Circuit judges William C. Canby Jr., A. Wallace Tashima, and Michelle T. Friedland said the District Court correctly rejected Montgomery's claim that he was eligible for a sentence reduction under Amendment 794 to the sentencing guidelines.

Amendment 794 generally adopted the approach of the Ninth Circuit and the Seventh District that when a district court conducts an assessment whether a defendant should receive a role reduction, "the defendant is to be compared with the other participants" in the crime, not with a hypothetical average participant.

The appellate judges pointed out that the sentencing guideline does not include Amendment 794 on its list of covered amendments.

The judges cited that in the *U.S. v. Ornelas* case, the Ninth Circuit ruled that the district court has the authority to lower a sentence if the defendant's guideline range has been lowered as a result of an amendment listed in the sentencing guidelines.

The judges said Montgomery does not challenge this conclusion on appeal.

Rather, the judges said, Montgomery renewed his arguments that the district court lacked jurisdiction over his underlying criminal case, and asserted several new arguments, challenging his convictions.

Montgomery appealed pro se or without a lawyer.

In December 2013, then-U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Alex R. Munson imposed a 20-year prison term on Montgomery for conspiracy to commit wire fraud, two counts of wire fraud, and one count of wire fraud: deprivation of honest services, one count of money laundering conspiracy, and three counts of money laundering.

Munson ordered Montgomery—together with two co-defendants—to pay Bank of Saipan \$5.2million in restitution and \$109,980 to Michelle Hom, a bank customer.

One of Montgomery's co-defendants committed suicide in August 2003.



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SCHOOL

From Page 1

other schools to resume classes.

NMC, whose As Terlaje campus was extensively damaged by the typhoon, was forced to share classrooms with students of Saipan Southern High School, which now operates only half-day.

"We're deeply appreciative of PSS and Saipan Southern High School leadership and teachers, who have been extremely helpful as we resume our classes at their campus," interim NMC president Frankie Eliptico told *Saipan Tribune*.

"I'm also proud of the staff and faculty who have been working hard these past few weeks to make sure the transition to SSHS and to other locations goes well," said Eliptico. "These staff and faculty members care very deeply for our students and they want to make sure the students feel welcome at these new facilities."

Franklin Santos, a junior at NMC taking up Liberal Arts and Natural Resource Management, said, "We are trying to get back on track as fast we can in order to finish our degree."

He said that minor schedule adjustments were still ongoing. "We are still adjusting to our environment, and I just had my first class in Building B [at the new campus]. It turns out all of my classmates were present."

Santos noted that one of his instructors told him that about 30 percent of the total student population went home to damaged homes.

"We have to accommodate the students—we have to help them physically and mentally," Santos said, quoting his professor.

Angeline Orsini, a 21-year-old student pursuing an associate degree in social work, was excited to meet with her peers after a long period of separation.

"...What we were looking forward to most was interacting and engaging with other students," she said.

Orsini is a member of Project PROA at NMC, an organization where students tutor, advise, and mentor other students.

"...It's very exciting to get back on track [and] being back in [the college]," she said.

NMC student government vice president Shanthia Espinosa, a 21-year-old pursuing a bachelor's degree in rehabilitation, was excited "to see my classmates—it's been a while."

Espinosa was stationed near the SSHS entrance, where she and some NMC staff were giving out folders that contained a map of the SSHS campus that applied to NMC; a notebook; and some writing tools to get students started for the resumption of classes.

One instructor noted that, despite some minor hiccups, the student turnout on the first



Both Northern Marianas College staff and student government welcomed students with refreshments and school supplies as classes temporarily resume at Saipan Southern High School.

ERWIN ENCINARES

day was "excellent" and well beyond the expected turnout.

"The first day went really well," NMC department chair for languages and humanities Sally Yntema told *Saipan Tribune*. "The classrooms have been great and the students are really eager to get back to school, so it made me feel more inspired and optimistic."

"I believe the next two weeks would be really great for NMC as a community," she added.

NMC personnel, according to student leadership coordinator Alexis Cabrera, are going all out to make students feel at home.

"...We understand that we are at a different campus, but we are doing our best to make the students feel as if they are back in NMC but just at a different location, [like] nothing else has changed and we are still the same services and the same people—just that our

site is different," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune*. She was with Espinosa, giving out school supplies for students at the entrance of SSHS.

"No matter where we are, we would still continue to do the same things for our students," Cabrera assured, adding that there would be a barbecue celebration for NMC students at the SSHS campus today.

US military welcomes PSS students

Several PSS students were welcomed back to school by Army Reserve soldiers with the 9th Mission Support Command, airmen with the 254th Rapid Engineer Deployable Heavy Operational Repair Squadron Engineers, the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron from the Anderson Air Force Base in Guam, and the CNMI PSS leadership on the first day of selected schools

the FBI, along with local law enforcers and civilian volunteers, taking part.

The Yamada sisters went missing in June 2014 during a trip to Saipan. Since then, Hideki and Kozue Yamada, the parents of the missing women, have been constantly returning to get an update on the case of their missing daughters.

Individuals who may have and leads to any of the unsolved cases of the CNMI are urged to contact DPS or CNMI Crime Stoppers.

ness applications. We're evaluating the applications and some are being approved."

As of Nov. 30, SBA had already received 174 business and economic injury disaster loans. Five have been approved for a total of \$136,200. FEMA made 818 referrals to SBA.

There have been four approved business and EIDL loans out of 17 applications for Typhoon Mangkhut; FEMA made 72 referrals to SBA.

SBA's disaster loan outreach center on Rota will be ending its services at 4:30pm tomorrow, Dec. 6, but Cowell said that those who would apply from Rota can come to Saipan and submit the forms and other required documents.

on Monday.

The schools that started classes Monday include the Garapan Elementary School, William S. Reyes Elementary School, Oleai Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Dandan Middle School, Chacha Ocean View Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, Da'ok Academy, and Kagman High School.

The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Tanapag Middle School, Marianas High School, Early Head Start and the Head Start Program are scheduled to resume classes on Dec. 10, 2018.

"Many of our soldiers have been seen around our island

assisting with the recovery efforts and what better way to welcome our students than by having our soldiers join our PSS staff welcome them back," said PSS Commissioner Glenn Muna.

According to a statement from the U.S. Army Reserve's 9th Mission Support Command, there are 450 service members assigned to the Joint Task Group-Saipan and the Task Force-West on Saipan.

"Students were excited to see our service members at their schools," Muña said. "Some students have asked if these were the same service members that have been out in various villages helping with the debris removal. Students have shared that they are grateful for our service members."

All in all, about 3,400 students are reported to have resumed classes Monday.

MOURNING

From Page 1

of former President George H.W. Bush.

The 41st President of the United States died last Friday, Nov. 30, in Houston, Texas. He was 94.

In the proclamation, Hocog said the entire nation, along with the CNMI and the other territories, lost a distinguished leader in Bush's passing.

The proclamation is in line with the Executive Order that President Donald Trump had signed, declared Dec. 5 as a National Day of Mourning and directing all federal departments and agencies to be closed on that day. Flags on public buildings are flying at half-staff for 30 days.

Hocog is encouraging everyone in the Commonwealth to take a moment and remember the former U.S. President in their homes, businesses, public buildings, schools, or places of worship.

"It is only fitting to join the rest of the country to publicly set aside a day of mourning so that all Americans can honor the life and memory of [former President] Bush," said Hocog, who also ordered all non-critical personnel of the CNMI government to attend the observances.

Commonwealth departments and offices shall be closed today, with the exception of schools, hospital, and other agencies that provided critical public services.

The late governor Pedro P. Tenorio met Bush when he visited Saipan with other Micronesian leaders in 1985 when he was still the Vice President during the term of former President Ronald Reagan.

After losing to Bill Clinton in 1992, Bush became involved in various humanitarian projects with other former presidents where he urged bi-

partisan unity on critical issues that faced the country.

His political career began when he was elected to the U.S. Congress representing Texas' 7th District where he served from 1967 to 1971. He was appointed by then-President Richard Nixon to be the 10th U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations.

Bush became the Republican National Committee chair in 1973 and the chief of the U.S. Liaison Office to China for one year. Former President Gerald Ford then appointed him as the 11th director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

Bush was chosen by Reagan as his running mate during the 1980 presidential campaign where they served for two terms. He succeeded Reagan when he defeated then-Massachusetts governor Michael Dukakis in the 1989 elections.

During his presidency, Bush witnessed the collapse of the Soviet Union, ending the decades-old Cold War and the reunification of Germany. It was also during his term when the Gulf War broke out, with the U.S. leading a 35-nation coalition to end Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

The remains of the 41st president took their place in the Capitol rotunda starting Monday for three days of mourning. He will lie in state in the Capitol for public visitation through Wednesday. An invitation-only funeral service is set for Wednesday at Washington National Cathedral.

After services in Washington, Bush will be returned to Houston to lie in repose at St. Martin's Episcopal Church before burial Thursday at his family plot on the library grounds. His final resting place will be alongside Barbara Bush, his wife of 73 years who died in April, and Robin Bush, the daughter they lost to leukemia in 1953 at age 3. **(With AP)**

UNSOLVED

From Page 1

any leads that could bring them closer to solving these cases.

"Those cases are still open and any leads that pop up, we look into it, just as any cold case that we have," he said.

"Unfortunately there hasn't been much [leads] lately, like other cases that have gone cold in the past," he said.

Guerrero said the number of cold cases in the Commonwealth date as far back

as the 1990s.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, a few of the high profile missing person cases that have gone cold include the disappearance of former Office of the Public Defender lawyer Jamal Saleh, siblings Faloma and Maleina Luhk, Japanese sisters Natsuki and Chinatsu Yamada, and more.

The most recent unsolved missing person case in the CNMI is the case of John J. Jones who went missing on Nov. 18 after diving at the

Grotto with his companions. The search was called off after 72 hours.

Saleh was reported missing on Oct 4, 2017. DPS reported that Saleh went for a walk at 1:30am on Oct. 3 2017, and was not heard of since.

The Luhk siblings went missing in May 25, 2011, near a bus stop pavilion in As Teo. The sisters were 9 and 10 years old when they went missing and their disappearance resulted in the most extensive islandwide search in the CNMI's history, with

sba.gov/ela.

"There, you can find out the status of your application," she said.

Applicants should also make sure if their application forms have been filled correctly and all required documents are complete. "Make sure you are not waiting for something or missing in documents. Because if we're waiting for something from you, we can withdraw the application and give you six months longer to get everything together."

"But you want your money as soon as possible. So, turn in everything. All the documents needed or visit the Business Recovery Center. It's been pretty steady and we're getting busi-

"So, don't pay someone. Have your accountant or someone from your office do the application whether online or at our [temporary] offices," Cowell told *Saipan Tribune*.

Cowell said the SBA discourages applicants from paying someone else to file a loan application unless they trust the person. "[But] if you have a good friend who is good in financial matters and you want to pay them, for like \$50, by all means, go ahead but there's a form that he needs to sign."

For business owners to ensure that the paperwork is filed correctly and properly, call SBA or go online to check the disaster recovery page at www.disasterloans.gov.

SBA

From Page 1

if you're worried about putting it in for your own. But, if you pay someone, that's where we can run into some trouble."

She pointed out that scammers usually offer to file the loan application for you for a fee and then fail to turn in the application.

"We don't want our applicants to pay someone, because there are scammers out there who will come in and say, 'Yeah, I'll put your application [for] \$200; give it to me.' You pay them \$200 and find out they didn't turn in the paperwork."

Cab driver with fake license pleads guilty

A cab driver who later admitted being an overstaying tourist and was found with a fake CNMI driver's license, pleaded guilty yesterday in federal court.

Cong Chen, 28, a Chinese national, pleaded guilty to aiding and abetting fraud as part of a plea deal.

The offense carries a maximum penalty of 15 years in

prison, \$250,000 fine, and a \$100 special assessment fee.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom yesterday at 3:15pm, U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ra-

mona V. Manglona was still conducting the change of plea hearing.

Defense counsel Benjamin Petersburg is the court-appointed counsel for Chen. Assistant U.S. attorney Garth Backe appeared as counsel for the U.S. government.

Chen, through an interpreter, said he came to Saipan as a tourist in April 2017 and extended his stay. He said he paid \$1,200 to get a CNMI driver's license in order to drive a taxi.

Assistant U.S. attorney Eric O'Malley said that a Federal Protective Service inspector

saw Chen at the Horiguchi Building in Garapan, who was illegally parked last Wednesday, Nov. 28.

O'Malley said that when the inspector confronted Chen, the defendant presented what appeared to be a fake CNMI driver's license. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

FEMA-Red Cross teams get warm welcome

As two Federal Emergency Management Agency corps teams made their rounds each morning on Saipan doing damage assessment following Super Typhoon Yutu, they were greeted with a heartwarming reminder that their work really was making a difference.

Eight-year-old Margrette was there to thank them with a huge hug.

The 11 FEMA Corps members worked with the American Red Cross for just three days but their impact was much longer lasting.

"Matty and Corey met Margrette on our first day reporting to the service center," Corp leader Kristina Grayhek said. "She ran up to us all asking if we worked for FEMA and thanking us for everything we were do-

ing on the island and with Red Cross.

"She was actually attending school in the building where the service center is so it became a morning ritual. She really made what we were doing so much more important."

The two teams, Ocean 50 and Ocean 51, spent three days working in the field with American Red Cross volunteers, completing dam-

age assessment and visiting neighborhoods that had been previously inaccessible. Their efforts have made it easier for clients impacted by Super Typhoon Yutu to seek Red Cross assistance and is vital to beginning cli-

ent casework.

Super Typhoon Yutu struck the Mariana Islands on Oct. 24 with sustained winds of 174 mph, leaving massive destruction in its wake. On the island of Tinian, 725 homes were destroyed, and

more than 1,300 homes were destroyed on Saipan.

More than 170 Red Cross disaster workers are helping to support those affected. Community shelters have provided 27,300 overnight shelter stays. (*PR*)



Eight-year-old Margrette greets a disaster assessment team outside the Marianas Business Plaza. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



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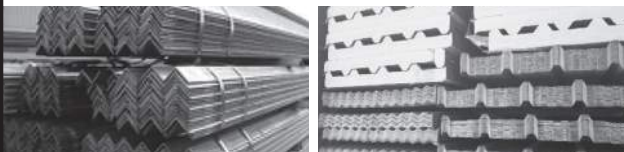
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Japan honors founding MVB director

A former Marianas Visitors Bureau managing director will be presented with a Japanese decoration as one of the several foreign recipients of the 2018 Autumn Imperial Decoration.

Jesus Manuel "J.M." V. Deleon Guerrero would be awarded the Order of the Rising Sun, Gold Rays with Rosette, making him the third person in the CNMI to be awarded the decoration in the CNMI. The award is in recognition of his contributions

promoting tourism exchange between Japan and the U.S.

Deleon Guerrero is credited with creating the foundation of the present economic and business relationship between Japan and the CNMI through tourism exchange.

"His great leadership increased the number of tourists and the number of direct flights to the CNMI from Japan for 12 years," a statement from the Consular Office of Japan noted.

Deleon Guerrero was managing director of MVB in 1977.

The conferment ceremony for Deleon Guerrero would be held on Dec. 6, 2018, in the Consular Office of Japan, with his wife Rieko Guerrero accompanying him.

Deleon Guerrero last Feb. 23, 2017 was awarded the Consul-General's Commendations for his contribution in promoting tourism exchange between Japan and the CNMI. (Erwin Encinares)

Public's help sought for info on break-in try

The Marianas Medical Center is seeking the help of the public for information on an attempted break-in at the clinic.

In a social media post yesterday by Polly Masga, Marianas Medical Center general manager, MMC is asking the public for more information on the perpetrator.

Anyone with leads are

urged to call the CNMI Crime Stoppers at 234-7272 or to contact Department of Public Safety dispatch at 911.

The alleged attempted break-in was discovered Monday around 7am, according to a post from Masga. A rock was thrown straight through the glass entrance door, leaving shards

of glass on the floor and a massive crack.

Saipan Tribune visited MMC Monday to obtain an official statement but MMC declined due to the pending investigation.

The Department of Public Safety has yet to issue an official statement about the break-in. (Kimberly A. Bautista)

JRM observes national day of mourning

ASAN, Guam—President Donald Trump issued an Executive Order on Dec. 1 authorizing Dec. 5 as a National Day of Mourning to pay respect to the 41st President of the United States, George H.W. Bush. All executive departments and agencies of the federal government including Joint Region Marianas will

close Dec. 5.

Supervisors will identify employees who must report to work on Dec. 5 for reasons of national security, defense, or other essential public business.

Dec. 5 will be treated as any other federal holiday for pay and leave purposes. Any paid leave scheduled for Dec. 5 will be cancelled and the employee

will not be charged leave for that day. This guidance applies to non-appropriated fund employees.

The following facilities will be open for regular hours of operation: U.S. Naval Hospital Guam, Navy Exchange, AAFES Exchange, and Orote Point and Andersen Air Force Base commissaries. (PR)

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FEMA looking at all options for PSS

By JON PEREZ
jon_perez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Federal Emergency Management Agency is looking for long-term solutions in helping the Public School System when it comes to restoring all classrooms damaged by Super Typhoon Yutu last October.

Most of the schools in the southern portion of Saipan sustained heavy damage, with some requiring extensive repairs or new facilities such as the Dandan Middle School, Da'ok Academy, Francisco M. Sablan Middle School, Hopwood Middle School, Oleai Elementary School, San Vicente Elementary School, and William S. Reyes Elementary School.

FEMA public information officer Paul Corah said their focus is how to go forward with the project of rebuilding these schools.

"If we're going to rebuild...

can we help [PSS] rebuild it stronger with the latest building codes? What would it take to not get damaged in case of another typhoon? ...Can we retrofit it to make it able to withstand another typhoon or not?"

He added that they are looking for short- and long-term solutions to the schools that had extensive damage. "We're looking at schools and how can we better help the entire community. Short term, we're looking at bringing in temporary buildings to open up all the schools as soon as we possibly can."

Although FEMA doesn't have a long-term plan yet, Corah said their team of engineers and experts have been looking at possible solutions. "Like what...resources do we have on the island and what can we bring?"

FEMA is also looking at relocating some of the schools. "Does the facility look like it

can be rebuilt or should we rebuild it someplace else? There are a lot of different things that we can look at. ...Everything has a dollar amount to it and we're looking at all options."

Da'ok, DMS, Oleai, WSR, Garapan Elementary School, Koblerville Elementary School, Chacha Oceanview Middle School, Saipan Southern High School, and Kagman High School have already resumed classes.

The Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School, Kagman Elementary School, SVES, FMS, Hopwood, Tanapag Middle School, Marianas High School, Early Head Start, and the Head Start Program will re-open on Dec. 10, Monday.

GTC, GES, KES, TMS, Da'ok, KHS, and Chacha will have full-day sessions, while OES, WSR, KobES, SVES, DMS, and FMS will be having double sessions.

Public meeting on Saipan airport master plan

The Commonwealth Ports Authority and its consulting firm, AECOM Technical Services, will be holding a public information meeting on Thursday, Dec. 13, 2018, from 6pm to 8pm. The meeting will be held at the Aircraft Rescue and Fire Fighting Classroom located

next to the air traffic control tower, past Tandem Skydive.

The public meeting will discuss the ongoing airport master plan study of the Francisco C. Ada/Saipan International Airport. The consultant team will be available to answer questions.

The latest master plan was prepared for the Saipan airport in 2002.

For more information, contact Wendi L. Prater, executive assistant/project manager, or Saipan airport manager William Camacho at 237-6500. (PR)

Joint Task Group-Saipan begins redeployment of forces

By STAFF SGT. JAMES KENNEDY BENJAMIN
9TH MISSION SUPPORT COMMAND

Service members supporting recovery efforts caused by one of the worst storm systems to ever hit U.S. soil since the 1930s began redeploying back home, starting Nov. 28-29.

A little more than one month after Super Typhoon Yutu devastated the CNMI, close to 100 soldiers with the 9th Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve, and Air Force Airmen with the 36th Civil Engineer Squadron, Andersen Air Force Base, currently assigned to Joint Task Group-Saipan, Task Force-West, redeployed from Saipan back to their homes.

Saipan Mayor David Apa-



STAFF SGT. JAMES KENNEDY BENJAMIN

Saipan Mayor David Apatang thanks soldiers with the 9th Mission Support Command, U.S. Army Reserve, currently assigned to Joint Task Group-Saipan, Task Force-West, last Nov. 29, for the work they did to support Super Typhoon Yutu recovery efforts.

tang, himself a retired Army soldier, shared his past storm experiences and expressed his gratitude to JTG-S members at a redeployment ceremony at the airport.

“We’ve went through a couple of storms way back, but

pressed appreciation for all the soldiers’ hard work.

“The mission of the American Red Cross is to alleviate human suffering in the face of disasters,” said Eli Russ, the deputy assistant director for the American Red Cross recovery efforts for Yutu. “And I would like to think that the mission is well on its way here [on] Saipan, but I also want to add that mission would have been impossible if it were not for you folks.”

The combined effort of JTG-S personnel with ARC members led to providing emergency service supplies to 9,223 homes—just a little over 121,000 individual emergency services supplies, according to a Red Cross official.

According to Apatang, the public was amazed seeing the troops around the island.

“You guys have been out there day and night...we’ve seen you around,” Apatang said. “And the public said, ‘We have never seen so many soldiers here on island.’ And they appreciate that. They love you guys, we love you.”


For Russ, JTG-S personnel and Red Cross members shared something unique this past Thanksgiving and the past few weeks supporting the recovery operations.

“We have been away from our families,” Russ said. “It is a shared sacrifice that they have with us, so as much as we have been able to help the people of Saipan and the rest of the Marianas, our families have been there right by our side.”


At the needs of the local government and at the direction of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, the Department of Defense has begun the transition to minimize its footprint in the Northern Marianas, a sure sign that the people of the CNMI are well on their way to a full recovery.

“I know you spent Thanksgiving with us here, away from your family, and that is very hard to do,” Apatang said. “Now you are going home to join them for Christmas, so enjoy your holidays. Stay strong Marianas.”

After Super Typhoon Yutu hit the islands of Saipan and Tinian on Oct. 24, several federal agencies immediately began a coordinated disaster response effort, including FEMA, U.S. Department of Defense and local government, to help the people of these islands recover. DOD forces used in the initial typhoon response have begun redeploying at the direction of FEMA, based on the needs of the local government.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
2nd Floor Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan, MP 96950



INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW19-IFB-007

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF A ROAD GRADER FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, SAIPAN

Governor Ralph Dlg. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for Supply and Delivery of a Road Grader for the Department of Public Works, Saipan Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project package will be available on or after **November 21, 2018** at Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, located on Second Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, San Jose, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of **Fifty Dollars (\$50.00)** is required for each set. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the Scope of Work at the DPW Technical Services Division.

Bidding procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations currently in effect.”

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITUES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

A Pre-bid Conference is not required, however, all questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on **November 30, 2018** to **Mr. Anthony A. Camacho, Director of Technical Services Division**, 2nd Floor, Oleai Joeten Commercial Center, Saipan or fax to (670) 234-3547. Response to questions shall be shared with prospective bidders.

Sealed bids must be marked “**DPW-19-IFB-007**”. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, no later than **10:00 a.m. local time December 10, 2018**. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional Seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notices of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m. local time, December 10, 2018**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@cnmidof.net. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and two copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **December 10, 2018** and the BID documents must be received at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **December 19, 2018**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will be publicly opened and read at the Office of the Director of Procurement and Supply, located at the former Emergency Management Office, Ascencion Drive, Building No. 1301, Capitol Hill, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m. local time, December 20, 2018**. However, if no notices of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:00 a.m. local time, on December 10, 2018**.

For bids greater than Twenty-Five Thousand Dollars (**\$25,000.00**) a bid security of fifteen (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. **Bid security shall be on a bid bond, in cash, by certified check, cashiers check or other form acceptable to the government. A surety company shall hold the certificate of authority from the U.S. Secretary of the Treasury as an acceptable surety or other surety acceptable to the Attorney General. Surety requiring approval of the Attorney General must be pre-approved prior to bid submission.** Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 44660". If a bid bond is submitted it must be accompanied by an Insurer Clearance Certification (ICC).

The bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations **§70-30.3-245**. The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price for contracts greater than \$25,000.00. Prior to the execution of the contract, the selected contractor shall submit:

a) A current license from the bonding company showing that it has authority to issue bond in the CNMI, and

b) A certification from the bonding company that the unencumbered value of its assets (exclusive of all outstanding commitments on other bond obligations) exceed the penal amount of each bond.

A contractor submitting an unacceptable payment or performance bond may be permitted a reasonable time, as determined by the P&S Director, to substitute an acceptable bond prior to executing a contract.

Acceptable assets are only:

1) Cash

2) US Gov't Securities


3) Stocks and Bonds traded on US Security Exchange

4) Real Property owned in fee simple in US; and


5) Irrevocable Letters of Credit

Performance time for completion of this project is **One Hundred Eighty (180) calendar days** upon issuance of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for delays beyond the established completion date will be assessed at the rate of **One Hundred (US\$100.00)** for each and every day the work is delayed beyond the established completion date.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not affect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.



Commonwealth
Utilities Corporation
Office of the Executive Director



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
CUC-RFP-18-032

Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 Mega Watt Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3 Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The RFP Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of \$100.00 (non-refundable) for one RFP package set. The RFP package consisting of the specifications and plans for the project, will be provided in a CD or emailed to the registered email ID. Prospective Proposers must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division.

One (1) original and four (4) hard copies, along with an electronic copy of the proposal on a compact disk in PDF format or USB Drive, must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked “**CUC-RFP-18-032, Supply, Installation and Commissioning of a 1.5 MW Trailer Mounted Diesel Generating Set with Enclosure for the CUC Power Plant No. 3, Saipan, CNMI**” to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, **no later than January 3, 2019 at 10:00 AM (ChST)**. Late submissions and conditional proposals will not be considered.

A *Proposal Guarantee* of fifteen (15%) percent of the total proposal price must accompany the proposals. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or proposal bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. A *Payment Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent and a *Performance Bond* of one hundred (100%) percent of the total bid price will be required upon the execution of the contract by the successful Proposer. The Payment and Performance bond must be executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety.

Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, for the protection of all persons supplying labor and material to the contractor or its subcontractors for the performance of the work provided for in the contract.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification shall be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Proposers are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity to discussion and revision of proposals, and such revision may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. During discussions, there will be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. All Offeror are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the Offeror due to lack of information or understanding of the proposal requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a proposal or supply under the contract. The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services. Offeror are required to comply with all CNMI and applicable Federal Laws. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the proponent awarded a contract. Successful proponents will be required to submit a copy of a valid CNMI Business license in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, upon award of the contract. The Contractor and all subcontractors will be obligated to pay wage rates not less than the current CNMI minimum wage, prevailing through the period of contract, as indicated in the web page: <https://marianaslabor.net/>. The proponents shall be required to comply with all applicable CNMI and Federal Laws.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from pre-registered prospective proposers and must be submitted in writing no later than **10:00 AM (ChST) on December 14, 2018** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC Purchasing Administrator via email address manny.sablan@cucgov.org with a copy to yvonne.cabrera@cucgov.org, CUC-Power Generation Manager, Richard Cano via email address richard.cano@cucgov.org and Christie Sablan, CUC Purchasing Assistant via email address christie.sablan@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposal, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

GARY CAMACHO
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

CNMI awarded \$131K grant for Statewide Comprehensive Outdoor Recreation Plan

Following a technical assistance request through the Office of Grants Management – State Clearinghouse under the Office of the Governor, the U.S. Department of the Interior's National Park Service has approved funding for the Commonwealth to plan and develop a new comprehensive outdoor recreation plan for fiscal year 2019 to 2024.

Giving the notice to proceed, David Siegenthaler of the Pacific West Region National Park Service informed the Office of the Governor of the successful agreement with the National Park Service pursuant to the Land and Water Conservation Fund Act of 1965.

Gov. Ralph DLG Torres said the plan, technically named SCORP, will serve as a policy and assessment plan that will guide the activities of the CNMI's recreation agencies and providers.

"Safeguarding our natural resources for current and future generations as much as possible will help maintain our overall infrastructure and economic viability. OGM has made the initial effort to bring a comprehensive recreational plan to life and the agreement between the National Park Service will allow the Commonwealth to re-establish our eligibility to participate in the Land and Water Conservation Fund program and receive grants that will help assist in preserving, developing, and assuring accessibility to our community's outdoor recreation resources. From this plan, the Department of Land and Natural Resources can better maintain and administer

the use of all public park lands to their fullest potential," Torres said.

According to OGM-SC administrator Epiphany E. Cabrera Jr., the scope of work states that DLNR, as the sub-recipient, must evaluate and identify recreation issues, GIS mapping, and goals and plans for implementation with support by public input, surveys and other data gathering efforts.

"The award of \$131,162 will cover the entirety of this plan's development, and with DLNR and Gov. Torres' direction, will allow for the improvement of community-based activities and park usage. This grant is covered 100 percent with no matching requirement by the CNMI government. We look forward to working with local agencies and federal partners on this to provide our community better recreational opportunities in the very near future," Cabrera said.

DLNR Secretary Anthony Benavente highlighted the need for more funding support to improve parks in the CNMI.

"Recreational activities on park lands and public spaces are still very critical to our tourism industry and are regularly used by members of our community. With this technical assistance, we hope to soon expand our recreational offerings and improve access for everyone in our community and adopt better policies and programs that are still environmentally and culturally responsive," Benavente said.

The project period is ongoing and will close out by Sept. 30, 2019. (PR)

Mobil lowers gas prices anew, Shell follows suit

By **KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA**
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Mobil Oil Marianas has rolled back its gas prices again on Monday—its second price rollback since Super Typhoon Yutu hit the Commonwealth.

As of Monday, all Mobil gas stations lowered their gas prices by 20 cents, bringing their prices down from \$4.43 per gallon of Extra fuel to \$4.23 per gallon and their Supreme fuel is down from \$4.80 per gallon to \$4.60.

Shell followed suit a couple of hours later; all Shell stations

on Saipan allegedly shut down for a few hours.

According to a Shell gas attendee, Shell was able to resume operations around 6:50pm Monday after Guam implemented the new gas prices.

The CNMI saw its first gas price rollback of 2018 over a week ago, a month following the aftermath of Super Typhoon Yutu.

Mobil brought their prices down from \$4.53 per gallon of Extra fuel to \$4.43 per gallon and their Supreme fuel went down from \$4.90 per gallon to \$4.80.

Just last Oct. 11, Mobil raised its prices by 10 cents, making it the fourth gas hike of the year. That came nearly four months since the last price increase.

The fourth price increase of the year boosted the price of Mobil's Extra fuel from \$4.43 per gallon to \$4.53 per gallon, while Mobil's Supreme fuel went up from \$4.80 to \$4.90 a gallon.

The first gas price hike of the year was a 13-cent increase implemented on Jan. 8, 2018, raising gas prices from \$3.95 to \$4.08 per gallon. That was later raised

after a month by 15 cents on Feb. 5, 2018, which was the second gas hike of the year. Gas went from \$4.08 to \$4.23 per gallon. Three months later, on May 14, the third gas price increase was at 20 cents, raising gas prices from \$4.23 to \$4.43 per gallon.

According to *Saipan Tribune* archives, gas prices were at \$3.48 in early 2016 and continued to increase until it reached \$3.93 in December 2016. A decrease of 10 cents was seen in June of 2017 before it increased by 10 cents again in October 2017.



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From the Safety 1st Staff and Management
Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!



Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 12:00 p.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative offices (new wing)

CHCC Board of Trustees Special Meeting
Thursday, December 6, 2018 at 12:00 p.m.

Agenda

- I. Call to Order
- II. Determination of Quorum
- III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda
- IV. Adoption of Minutes
- V. To vote and approve the Board of Trustees FY2020 Budget
- VI. To vote and approve Applications for Privileges for the following individual: New Applicants: 1) Dr. Christopher Martin 2) Dr. Genny Feinberg 3) Dr. Kimberly Moseley 4) Thomas Collord, NP. Renewal Applicants: 5) Christine Kapileo, Midwife 6) Faviannna, Midwife
- VII. Adjournment

P.O. Box 500409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 236-8201/2 FAX: (670) 23-8756

Opinion

Hafa Adali

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
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Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP, 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
editor@saipantribune.comMark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR
mark_rabago@saipantribune.com

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

'Deaths of despair'

The cover of a recent issue of *The Economist* magazine highlighted a heartening story: "Staying alive: Why the global suicide rate is falling." Inside, we learn, "Globally the rate has fallen by 38 percent from its peak in 1994. As a result, over 4 million lives have been saved."

One country, however, is a stark exception to this welcome improvement: the United States. The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that since 1999, the suicide rate has risen by 33 percent, and the trend has accelerated since 2006. Some 45,000 people kill themselves each year, more than the number who die in auto accidents.

That is not the only grim news. More than 70,000 Americans died of drug overdoses last year—which is an average of 191 per day. That was up from 63,632 the previous year.

These two developments have produced a three-year decline in Americans' life expectancy, the longest such reduction since a century ago, when World War I and a devastating worldwide flu epidemic cut short a vast number of lives.

The big difference this time is that people are dying of self-inflicted causes, not huge global events far beyond individual control. They suggest that many people find some conditions of modern American life, even during a period of economic prosperity, too painful to bear. "We are losing too many Americans, too early and too often, to conditions that are preventable," said CDC Director Robert Redfield.

Why this is happening is hard to decipher. The highest suicide rates are among men over the age of 45. The most rural areas have been particularly affected, with the age-adjusted rate jumping 53 percent since 1999—compared with 16 percent in the most urban places.

Overdose deaths occur disproportionately in one part of the country, with the highest rates in West Virginia, Ohio, New Hampshire, Pennsylvania and Kentucky. Unlike suicides, they are roughly as likely to occur among city dwellers as their country cousins.

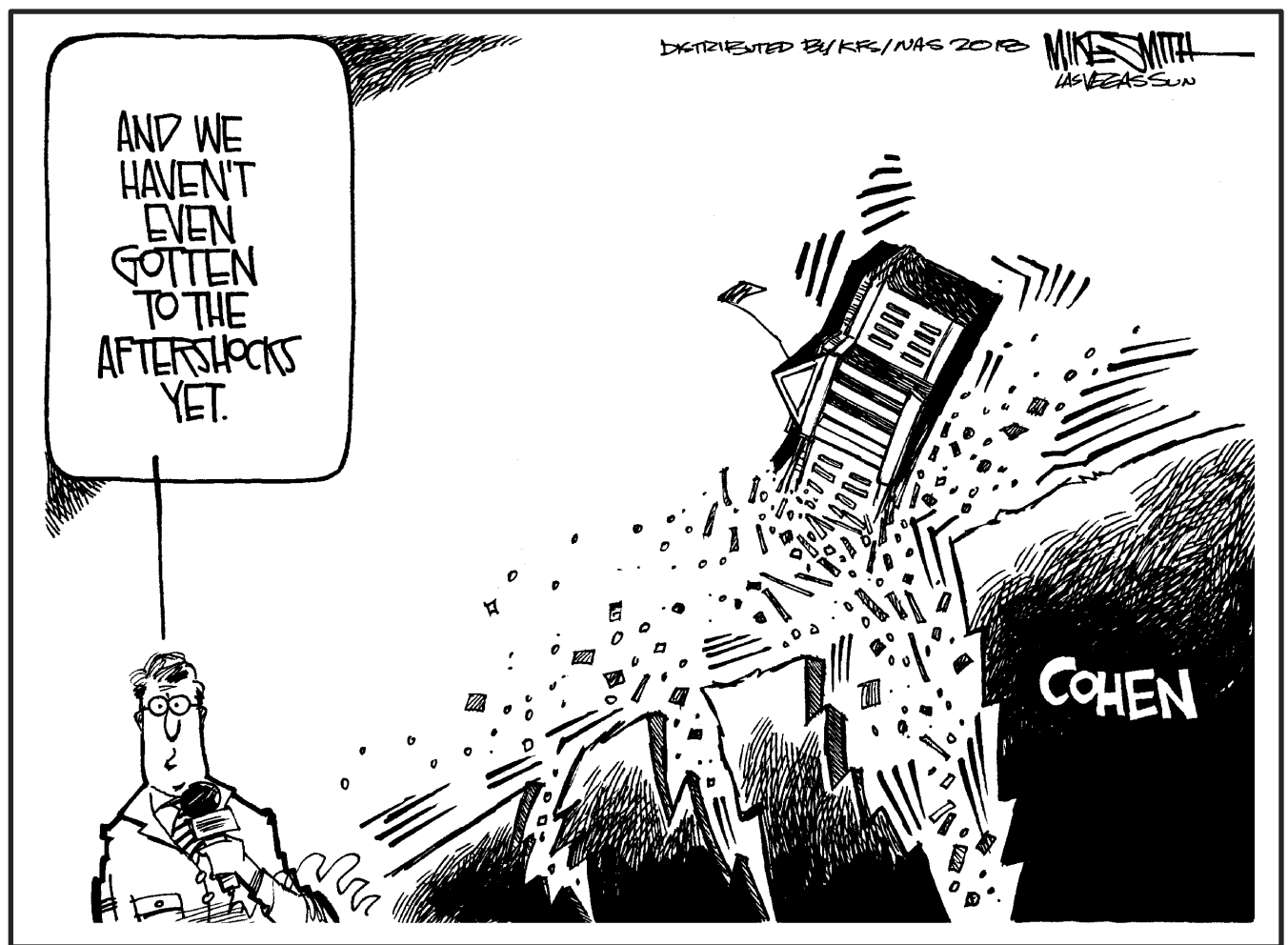
What can be done? Locating the sources of misery that drive people to such options is important. Princeton economist Anne Case says the increase of "deaths of despair" is "consistent with the labor market collapsing for people with less than a college degree. In turn, those people are being less able to form stable marriages, and in turn that has effects on the kind of economic and social supports that people need in order to thrive." Reversing those maladies won't be easy or quick.

On the overdose side, steps have been taken that should help. A bill signed by President Donald Trump in October makes some useful changes to expand access to drug treatment and promote wider use of naloxone, which is used to reverse opioid overdoses, by first responders, and to discourage over-prescribing of opioid painkillers.

The biggest factor in the epidemic lately is fentanyl, a synthetic opioid that is far more powerful than heroin—and is often mixed with other, less potent opioids unbeknown to the user. Since 2013, the number of deaths involving fentanyl have skyrocketed from about 3,000 to more than 28,000.

See DEATHS on Next Page

» The grim decline in life expectancy



George H.W. Bush: Man of character

I first met the man who would become America's 41st president in 1968. He was a Houston congressman and I was a young reporter for a local TV and radio station. My first impression was how kind he was to this "kid," who had just moved to Texas from the Washington, D.C., area and was just starting to learn the "language," like "fixing to go" and "y'all."

Everyone who worked for George H.W. Bush, or knew him, has a story to tell. I have several.

Mr. Bush was a letter writer like none other. I think I have an almost complete collection of his notes and letters, some typed, some handwritten, from every position he held in public life. These include congressman, Republican National Committee chairman, chief liaison officer to the People's Republic of China, U.N. ambassador, CIA director, vice president and president.

When he became president, I wrote him a congratulatory note and he responded on White House stationery. I later told him I was keeping the letter "just in case you amount to something." He laughed.

One time we were scheduled to meet at Walker's Point, the Bush family compound in Kennebunkport, Maine, where they had vacationed for decades. Mr. Bush had to cancel due to an unexpected visit from an ambassador. Apparently concerned that my feelings would be hurt, he instructed an aid to get a phone number where he could call me. I gave him a payphone number at a local hardware store (this was before cellphones had become ubiquitous) and he called to apologize.

Our last meeting was two years ago at Walker's Point and this time he didn't cancel. My youngest daughter was with me. We were told that the president sometimes appeared to doze off, but that he was listening. We had a wonderful visit, recalling Houston days. He asked questions and seemed lucid and interested in talking politics and world events.

On one visit to the Oval Office when he was president, he sat behind the desk and I sat in a chair next to him. When I showed his son, the 43rd president, that picture some years later, he motioned me over to the same desk, we sat down and the picture was replicated. I have both hanging in my office.

Mr. Bush was not a favorite of conservatives, who believed he

By CAL THOMAS

Tribune Content Agency

Readers may email Cal Thomas at tcaeditors@tribpub.com.

would be the third term of his predecessor, Ronald Reagan. When he promised a "kinder, gentler nation," some thought he was being critical of Reagan. In fact, a case could be made that it wasn't Reagan who was unkind and ungente, but his critics.

Mr. Bush faltered when he broke his "read my lips, no new taxes" pledge in exchange for a promise by congressional Democrats to cut spending. The Democrats got their tax increase, but didn't deliver on spending cuts. He also took heat for nominating David Souter to the Supreme Court. Souter was sold to him as a conservative by Chief of Staff John Sununu, but he turned out to rule with the court's liberal wing. Still, he gave conservatives Clarence Thomas, a solid constitutional originalist.

As president, Mr. Bush brought just the right attitude to the collapse of the Soviet Union, warning Americans they should not engage in triumphalism over the collapse of the communist regime (many celebrated anyway) and the end of the Cold War because of the uncertainty of what might follow. He also ordered the military to oust Saddam Hussein's forces after they had invaded Kuwait, a highly successful operation.

Any epitaph on the life of George H.W. Bush must include at least three words: character, honor and integrity. From his service in World War II, to his political career and post-presidency, not to mention his faithfulness to Barbara, his wife of 73 years.

Perhaps one of the reasons he seems so attractive is his contrast with the current bitter and corrosive political climate. We are not likely to see his kind again, but we will have his memory and example to recall when considering the definition of the word gentleman.



EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, village address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Konfitmasion

Kuattru na metgut pagyu dumestrosia tano'ta deste 1968. Tat troñkun hayu yan tilifon ti hinilug ya pinarada gi edda'.

Lau gi todū este na iran mañglu' ni unu umestotba estatuan i Sainata gi hilu' i katedrat Chalan Kanoa. Konfitmasion na tai achagua i fuetsan Nanalibreta!

Asuntu: Ti siña hu pega kalulothu gi asuntu pot signifikasion i pagyu guine gi alacha. Guaha bumoluntariu na kase uttimu señat para hita gi disision entalu' kultura yan casino.

Taya' tinatet-ta felis na ekspirensia pot bisnis casino lau motmut estoriata gi magof yan trañkilo na hinanau tautau isla. Estague' dichu asuntu ni hita solu siña dumispone. I uttimu disision gaige gi dos patman kanai-ta kumu tautau isla!

Konkabidu: Ma-akusa i mayot iya Luta na hana setbi fondun publiku para inasoda' yan achagma'ña giya Saipan, Guam yan San Diego.

Lau guaha fondun para Romeo and Juliet? Manu gi probision konstitusion tiha komprende pot usun appropriation fondun publiku? Pot "I Luff You" un' abusa inapasen taxpayers? Haf' nai ti inna setbi email sa dibatdi?

San Lucas: Bes enkuando hu taitai i Santa Biblia espesiatmente tinige' San Lucas (St. Luke). Guiya este na santos i finenina tumuge' kumu periodista fina'pos i Sainata yan manapostoles siha dispues de manhanau.

Gi hilu' pinasensia, ha soyu' hit si San Lucas para tafan patte gi estoria para u guaha mas appresiasion haf i masusedi. Mauleg na sineyu'. Yangin in' offisiona tumaitai haf tinige'ña siempre in' seda' na timapot esplikasioña pot tinagu' Sainata.

Kuttura: Dumaña' kutturan natibu yan hinalum kutturan relihion gi bandan katolisismo. Gi hilu' este na dinaña' areglu' nai ta mueba umadelanta ha'anita gi pisun echu che'chu' mauleg na kilisyanu. Estague' muna' felis hinanau-ta dispues

de hinalum Español.

Ti hana' matmanyu' i libianu na dinaña pot deste antigu na komunidat Chamorro metgot i finana'guen respetu. Estague' i pisun amtau na adelantun tautau-ta deste antes. Motmut akonsehun respetu!

Sensia: Hana' fan dimu hit si Yutu lau tiha hulug i metgut na sensian natibu umaregla tatte ha'aniña. Gigon kayada, tatutuhun muna' gasgas todū dinestrosian pagyu. Makat lau ni unu sumeha ginen este na obligasion.

Magahet na si Yutu ha displanta otdinariu na selebrasion Noche Buena. Lau manteni fitme i haligen i kilu'osmu ya in' kontinua man-mamokat. Siempre un' fattu gi fina' nuhuñg yan fresku na mañglu' nai siña hau dumeskansan ñaihon. Taya' siña dumestrosia i metgut na sensian natibu pumetsige umaregla tatte destrosiau na ha'aniña.

Liñguahe: Hu ekuñgog dibaten kandidaton gobietnun iya Guahan antes de eleksion gi ma'pus na mes ni makondakta gi finu' Chamoru.

Ni kuestion 'sino ineppi komprendiyun. I kuestion madagau chagu' mientras i ineppi kulan finu' Latin! Ni unu hihot gi pituman liñguahe Chamorro! Lastima!

Anog haf' bidaña i anaku' na diniskutturan usun otu liñguahe gi natibu! Mauleg umarepara este na finatsu gi dichu pinetsige para u gu'ut yan susteni haf' kutturan Chamoru. Gaige este gi dos patman kanai miyu!

■ ■ ■

Ayudu: Mauleg na tautau mamila pot ayudun food stamps guine gi mapas na semana. Guiya este na grupu i ti rumesisibe regulatmiente este na ayudu. Namagof i assistimientu ni muna' e tautau alibiu gi halum didog na chinatsaga.

Mansuette hit ni ayudu siha ginen i FEMA, militat yan otu siha inetnun ni ensegidas manhuyuñg gi señoñg. Konsidera 'an ginen fuetsata 'nai para ta tutuhun pumega tatte otdinariu na

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.

Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the Saipan Tribune.



ha'anita. Makat!

Chatagmag: Hu offisiona umesgaihon halum i nuebu na ha'ane 'an chatagmag. Libianu huli'e kau ma'lag pat nublada i mamamaila' pat fresku, maibe 'sino figan i dia.

Gi mismu tiempu hu ayeg haf' para bai tuge' guine na pahina gi gasetu. Hu taitai, analisa, yan pesa finu' tautau-ta siha antes de bai tutuhun sumuhun lapesu.

Gi lemlem tautau hu ekuñgug haf' otu man-masusedi gi komunida. Huna' guaha lokue' tiempu para grasiosu na konbetsasion yan niutu(ta). Dispues 'nai hu tutuhun umanalisa haf' siha na infotmasion mattu giya guahu antes de oran deskansu.

Hinimiddi yan pinasensia presisu gi todū pinetsigen para ta adelanta ha' anen tautau-ta siha. Dimas, atan manu 'nai siña hau man-ayuda ya un' saunau umatbansa kualidat linala' tautau-ta siha. Sensian imbidu yan finatane' tai kampu gi che'chu' linahyan.

■ ■ ■

Huli'e empleaou CUC animu man-na'tachu tilifon giya As Gonno. Adumididi' siempre una'lu tatte regulatmiente setbisium kandet yan hanum. Gi halum destrosiu ni todū manpinalala'e, pinasensia solu sahyun gi pa'gu. Agradesimientu para todū ahen-sia ni mandaña para uma-assiste i publiku.

Pence's missed chance to visit CNMI

Vice President Mike Pence's recent stopover in Guam was a missed opportunity to help the CNMI recover from Super Typhoon Yutu. Returning from Asia on Nov. 18, the vice president's plane made a scheduled landing at Andersen Air Force Base in Guam to refuel. The vice president should have used that time to fly to Saipan and Tinian to visit those struggling to rebuild in Yutu's aftermath. Instead, the vice president continued on to Washington, D.C., having failed to spotlight the suffering still going on in the CNMI. The citizens of the CNMI deserve better.

High-level visits to disaster areas are important gestures. Last year, President Trump visited Puerto Rico in the wake of Hurricane Maria, and Pence visited the U.S. Virgin Islands in the aftermath of hurricanes Maria and Irma. Those visits not only symbolized a commitment to stand with the people of those storm-devastated islands, they also garnered the attention of non-governmental organizations and others in a position to aid in recovery efforts.

Regrettably, Yutu's impact has been largely overlooked in the mainland press. Indeed, veteran CNN, Fox News, and NBC News anchor Greta Van Susteren described the CNMI's plight following Yutu as "grossly underreported." A visit from the vice president, not to mention the president, could have shone a spotlight on the devastation wrought by Yutu, thereby generating headlines and broader awareness. But sadly, the White House has remained mostly silent while the people of the CNMI have struggled to rebuild their storm-ravaged homes and businesses.

While it's true that the president declared emergencies following Yutu and, earlier this fall, Typhoon Mangkhut, these minimal gestures fall far short of what he could—and should—have done to assist the CNMI. Congressional leaders have likewise failed to adequately attend to the CNMI's needs.

Compounding the CNMI's woes is the Commonwealth's systematic exclusion from the lawmaking process. The CNMI's non-voting delegate to Congress, Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), can advocate for the Commonwealth's interests. But Congress otherwise silences him when it comes to national affairs. That injustice is rooted in America's century-old dalliance with colonialism. By denying the people of America's insular territories full representation, Congress relegates those citizens living outside the 50 states to second-class status—a practice that is both morally bankrupt and constitutionally dubious.

Democratic legitimacy was fundamentally important to the Constitution's framers, so they made congressional representation the cornerstone of our nation's federal government. Sadly, our nation's leaders failed to adhere to that principle when it came to territorial acquisition. While it's true that self-determination has always been at the heart of the transition from territorial status to statehood, Congress has erected indefensible barriers to entry for so-called "unincorporated territories" like the CNMI, which are not on a pathway to statehood. And that exclusion affects the lives of each and every citizen living in the Commonwealth.

It's difficult to imagine so little attention being paid to Saipan

tanyl was detected.

Expanding treatment for mental health problems and substance abuse would also help to save people from suicide and drug overdose. The expansion of Medicaid in most states under the Affordable Care Act has made mental health treatment easier to obtain. The Trump administration has offered waivers to states that want to provide more inpatient care for both substance abuse

By SCOTT OLSON

Truman National Security Project

Scott A. Olson is a writer, a former congressional staffer, and a political partner of Truman National Security Project. He holds a master's degree in public policy from George Washington University and a law degree from the University of Oregon School of Law. Follow him on Twitter at @SolsonOR. Views expressed are his own.



and Tinian if the CNMI had full representation in Congress. Indeed, a lawmaker's ability to leverage his or her vote in the interests of his or her constituents is vital to recovery efforts in states with a full complement of senators and representatives. The silence from the White House and the CNMI's congressional caretakers speaks volumes about the stature of the CNMI in the national debate. Fortunately, it's not too late to make amends for that injustice.

Colonialism is wrong. And if there ever was a time when it served the interests of America's insular territories, that time is long gone. It's time for the people of the CNMI to enjoy the same rights and protections as citizens in the 50 states. In the meantime, paying due attention to the CNMI's recovery efforts would be a good place to start.

and mental health.

For the modern United States to suffer a three-year decline in life expectancy is a tragedy and a signal for urgent action. Faced with an epidemic of deaths from despair, Americans need to join together in the task of restoring hope.






DEATHS

From Page 10

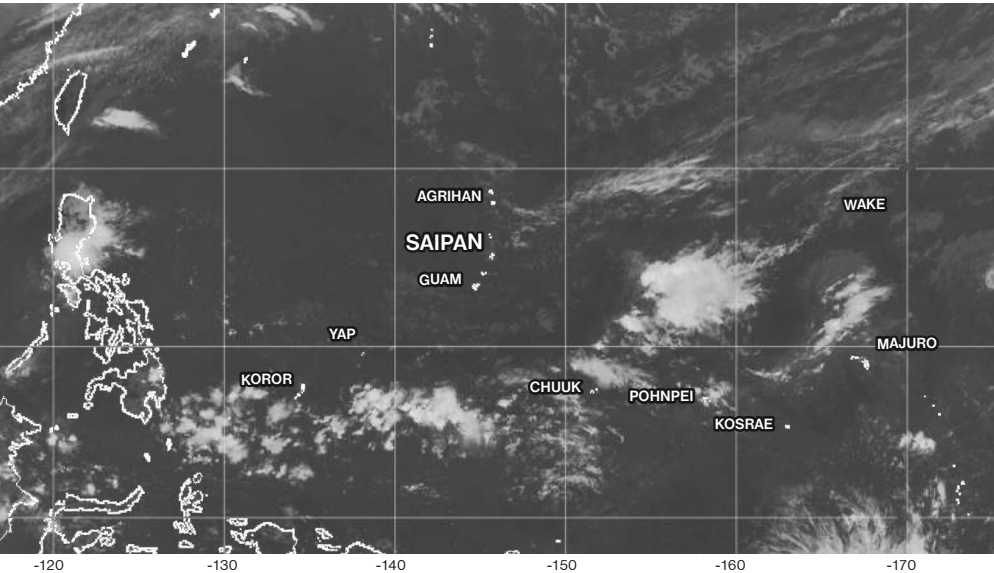
One safeguard is making it easy for users to get test strips that show whether drugs include fentanyl. A small study in North Carolina found that drug users who got these test strips generally used them and took measures to reduce the danger when fen-

The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
 Partly sunny with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	 Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	 Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 89° ▼ 76°	▲ 89° ▼ 77°	▲ 86° ▼ 78°	▲ 87° ▼ 77°	▲ 89° ▼ 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 5:42 AM, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2018
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Only minor changes were made--mainly refreshing the winds out to 5 days from the 12Z GFS. Showers will remain isolated for the next week or so, as there will be no significant disturbances to trigger scattered showers. Fresh to strong trades will persist into tonight, then subside a little the rest of the week as a strong high up north slides off to the east. Nevertheless, winds will remain moderate to fresh through the end of the week. Similarly, seas will hit 10 feet at times tonight in northeastern Saipan coastal waters, but then should subside slightly Wednesday through the rest of the week. The risk of rip currents will likely reach high tonight along east facing reefs, but then will probably fall back to moderate Wednesday or Wednesday night.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA			▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	87° / 79°	
Palau	Thunderstorms	86° / 77°	
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 80°	
Chuuk	Mostly Sunny	86° / 80°	
Pohnpei	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°	
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 76°	
Majuro	Thunderstorms	85° / 80°	

AROUND THE GLOBE			▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Showers	63° / 54°	
Beijing	Sunny	30° / 12°	
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	77° / 64°	
Honolulu	Mostly Sunny	81° / 70°	
London	Rain	54° / 46°	
Los Angeles	Showers	59° / 53°	
Manila	Partly Cloudy	90° / 79°	
Melbourne	Sunny	91° / 75°	
Miami	Partly Cloudy	75° / 61°	
New York	Mostly Sunny	39° / 31°	
Osaka	Rain	61° / 52°	
Paris	Cloudy	54° / 52°	
Busan	Showers	52° / 28°	
Rome	Partly Cloudy	63° / 50°	
Salem	Sunny	50° / 28°	
San Francisco	Showers	53° / 46°	
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	45° / 14°	
Tokyo	Rain	50° / 48°	
Washington, DC	Mostly Cloudy	41° / 28°	



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF NOVEMBER 20, 2018

DEPARTURES				ARRIVALS			
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)				GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN			
UA117	9:15am	9:55am	Daily	UA174	7:30am	8:11am	Daily
UA105	4:45pm	5:25pm	2, 4	UA104	3:00pm	3:41pm	2, 4
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) – temporarily suspended				BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN – temporarily suspended			
7C3451	3:15am	6:30am	Daily	7C3452	9:35pm	2:00am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
				7C3452	10:05pm	2:00am+1	1
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)				SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN			
7C3401	4:30pm	8:25pm	Daily resume from Nov 27	7C3402	10:10am	3:30pm	Daily resume from Nov 27
Temporarily suspended:				Temporarily suspended:			
TW9308	1:10am	4:10am	3, 4	TW9307	6:30pm	12:10am+1	2, 3
TW308	1:35am	5:20am	Daily	TW307	7:00pm	12:35am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ626	2:20am	6:00am	1	TW307	7:05pm	12:35am+1	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7	OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW9308	3:20am	6:30am	2	OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
TW9308	3:25am	6:30am	5	TW9307	9:00pm	2:20am+1	1
7C3403	4:35am	8:25am	Daily	TW9307	9:05pm	2:25am+1	4
				7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) – resume from Nov 28				SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 28			
3U8648	6:10am	8:50am	1, 4, 5, 7	3U8647	10:20pm	4:50am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH) – resume from Nov 28				HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 28			
JD396	7:30am	11:00am	1	JD395	8:05am	3:30pm	4
JD396	4:50pm	7:55pm	4	JD395	9:35pm	5:00am+1	7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) – resume from Nov 26				GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 26			
3U8646	4:30am	7:55am	2, 6	3U8645	7:55pm	2:40am+1	1, 5
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) – resume from Nov 27				BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN – resume from Nov 27			
MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7	MU763	4:40pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)				MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN			
UA117/183	9:15am	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM	UA182/174	12:40am	8:11am+1	3, 6 via GUM
UA117/183	9:15am	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM	PR110/UA174	10:05pm	8:11am+1	Daily via GUM
UA117/193	9:15am	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR	UA192/174	10:30pm	8:11am+1	2, 5 via GUM-ROR
UA105/183	4:45pm	9:50pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA184/174	10:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)				HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN			
HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4 resume from Nov 28	HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7 resume from Nov 28
U043	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7 resume from Nov 22	U042	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7 resume from Nov 22
UA117/159	9:15am	11:00pm	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM	U042	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6 resume from Nov 22
UA105/159	4:45pm	11:00pm	2, 4 via GUM	UA116/174	11:45pm	8:11am+1	2, 4, 6 via GUM
				UA116/174	11:55pm	8:11am+1	1, 3, 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA				1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily	1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily	1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily	1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO SAIPAN				1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily	1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily	1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily	1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily
ROTA TO GUAM				TINIAN TO SAIPAN			
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily	2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
GUAM TO ROTA				2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily	2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
SAIPAN TO TINIAN				2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY	2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily	2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily	2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
				2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
				2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
				2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
				2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY FEET		
12:19 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.04
6:49 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.73
12:16 PM	LOW TIDE	0.92
5:46 PM	HIGH TIDE	2.02

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Thursday	6:29 AM	5:45 PM
Friday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Saturday	6:30 AM	5:46 PM
Sunday	6:31 AM	5:46 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	4:21 AM	4:17 PM	-
Thursday	5:14 AM	5:02 PM	-
Friday	6:08 AM	5:48 PM	-
Saturday	7:01 AM	6:37 PM	-
Sunday	7:53 AM	7:26 PM	-

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Business

Trump and Xi agreement buys time in trade war

WASHINGTON (AP)—The dinner table diplomacy that Presidents Donald Trump and Xi Jinping of China conducted over the weekend produced something as vague as it was valuable: an agreement to keep talking.

Forged over grilled sirloin at the Group of 20 summit Saturday in Buenos Aires, Argentina, the ceasefire Trump and Xi agreed to Saturday night illustrated that the leaders of the world’s two largest economies can at least find some common ground, however tentative and ill-defined it might be. The truce pulled the United States and China back from an escalating trade war that was threatening world economic growth and had set global investors on edge.

“The prospects for real progress on substantive issues with China are now better than at any point in the Trump administration,” said Andy Rothman, investment strategist at Matthews Asia.

What Trump and Xi achieved was the gift of additional time—90 days, at least—to try to resolve the thorny and complicated issues

that divide them. Most important among them, and perhaps the most intractable, is the U.S. argument that Beijing has deployed predatory tactics in a headlong drive to overtake America’s global supremacy in high technology.

Yet reaching a permanent peace will hardly be easy. The Trump administration asserts, and many experts agree, that China systematically steals trade secrets and forces the U.S. and other foreign countries to hand over sensitive technology as the price of admission to the vast Chinese market.

Washington also regards Beijing’s ambitious long-term development plan, “Made in China 2025,” as a scheme to dominate such fields as robotics and electric vehicles by unfairly subsidizing Chinese companies and discriminating against foreign competitors.

This year, Trump imposed an import tax of 25 percent on \$50 billion in products, then hit an additional \$200 billion worth of goods with 10 percent tariffs. Those 10 percent tariffs were scheduled to ratchet up to 25 percent on Jan. 1 if the United States



AP
China’s President Xi Jinping attends the G20 summit in Buenos Aires, Argentina, Friday, Nov. 30, 2018.

July but added a 25 percent penalty for U.S.-made vehicles the following month in response to Trump’s tariff hikes.

But can China be trusted? Its contentious tech policies lie at the heart of its economic vision, and Beijing could prove reluctant to sacrifice its ambition, no matter what longer-term agreement with the United States it eventually reaches.

“Make no mistake about it: The issues that we have with China are deep structural issues, and you’re not going to resolve all of them in 90 days or even 180 days,” said Dean Pinkert, a former commissioner on the U.S. International Trade Commission and now a partner at the law firm Hughes Hubbard & Reed. The Trump administration is “going to have to decide how much progress they need in order to define it as a win.”

and China failed to reach an agreement to at least postpone that move.

In Buenos Aires, they did reach such an accord. Trump agreed to delay the scheduled U.S. tariff increase for 90 days while the two sides negotiate over the administration’s technology-related complaints. In return, China agreed to buy what the White House called a “not yet agreed upon, but very substantial” amount of

U.S. products to help narrow America’s gaping trade deficit with China. If the Chinese did eventually increase such purchases, it would be warmly welcomed in the U.S. Farm Belt, where producers of soybeans and other crops have been hurt by Beijing’s retaliatory tariffs.

Trump tweeted late Sun-

day that “China has agreed to reduce and remove tariffs on cars coming into China from the U.S. Currently the tariff is 40%.” There was no Chinese announcement about possible tariff cuts and the Ministry of Commerce in Beijing didn’t immediately respond to questions.

Beijing cut import duties on foreign autos to 15 percent in

Leaders stress need to win support for climate measures

KATOWICE, Poland (AP)—As leaders attending the U.N.’s annual climate summit heard fresh warnings about the dire consequences of leaving global warming unchecked, a new issue emerged Monday as a pressing concern: how to persuade millions of workers their industry can’t have a future if humanity is to have one.

Hosting the talks in the heart of its coal region of Silesia, Poland tried to set the tone for the two-week meeting by promoting the idea of a “just transition” for miners and other workers facing layoffs as countries adopt alternative energy sources.

“We are trying to save the world from annihilation, but we must do this in a way that those who live with us today in the world have the best possible living conditions,” Polish President Andrzej Duda said. “Otherwise they will say, ‘We don’t want such policy.’”

The issue of a “just transition” isn’t restricted to work-

ers in energy industries who might lose their jobs. Many economists argue that ambitious curbs on greenhouse emissions require raising the cost of carbon fuels—one of the measures that triggered large-scale protests in France by motorists feeling the squeeze at the pump.

Arnold Schwarzenegger on climate change deniers: “There must be something a little off.”

Scientists say the only way to keep average global temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees Celsius (2.7 F) by the end of the century is to phase out the use of fossil fuels by 2050. That is the most ambitious goal set in the 2015 Paris agreement, which negotiators from nearly 200 countries have come to Katowice to finalize.

U.N. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres issued a dramatic appeal to leaders Monday to take the threat of global warming seriously,

calling it “the most important issue we face.”

“Even as we witness devastating climate impacts causing havoc across the world, we are still not doing enough, nor moving fast enough, to prevent irreversible and catastrophic climate disruption,” Guterres told delegates from almost 200 countries on the second day of talks.

Famed British naturalist Sir David Attenborough echoed his warnings, telling the gathering that the “collapse of our civilizations and the extinction of much of the natural world is on the horizons” if no urgent action is taking against global warming.

The 92-year-old TV presenter blamed humans for the “disaster of global scale, our greatest threat in thousands of years.”

Without naming specific countries, Guterres chided the nations most responsible for greenhouse gas emissions for failing to do enough to meet the goals set in Paris.

Congress seeks 2-week extension to avert government shutdown

WASHINGTON (AP)—Congressional leaders introduced a two-week funding bill Monday to avert a partial government shutdown over President Donald Trump’s border wall, as business in the Capitol came to a standstill for ceremonies honoring former President George H.W. Bush.

The stopgap measure would keep the government funded through Dec. 21, two weeks after a Friday deadline when funding for a portion of the government, including the Department of Homeland Security, is set to expire.

The measure comes as Trump kept up pressure Monday on congressional Democrats to fund his promised border wall and threatened other actions to deter illegal immigration as negotiations continue.

“We would save Billions of Dollars if the Democrats would give us the votes to build the Wall,” Trump tweeted without evidence Monday. “Either way, people will NOT be allowed into our Country illegally! We will

close the entire Southern Border if necessary.”

House leaders canceled roll call votes this week for ceremonies honoring Bush, who died Friday, meaning an extension will be needed to avert a funding lapse.

While Democrats prefer a one-week extension, they signaled they would not object to a two-week delay. Trump made clear over the weekend he would agree to a short-term funding extension to allow for ceremonies honoring Bush.

Democrats have little interest in providing the \$5 billion Trump wants for the southern border, and with the party set to take control of the House in the new year, opposition to the wall has hardened.

Even some Republicans balk at spending more than the \$1.6 billion for fencing and other security improvements already provided. But Trump has signaled he’s ready to fight for the money as one of the last big-ticket items of the GOP-led Congress before Democrats take over the House following a decisive victory in the mid-

term elections.

The president invited the top Democratic leaders, Sen. Chuck Schumer of New York and Rep. Nancy Pelosi of California, to the White House for a meeting Tuesday, but Democrats asked to postpone it because of Bush’s funeral. The meeting has been tentatively rescheduled for Dec. 11, said a White House official who was not authorized to speak publicly and spoke on condition of anonymity.

Trump told reporters on Air Force One on Saturday he would be willing to sign a two-week funding extension. “I would absolutely consider it and probably give it,” he told reporters.

Schumer has suggested one option would be for Trump to accept the Senate’s \$1.6 billion bipartisan border security package, along with the remaining \$1.3 billion from the current fiscal year that has not yet been spent.

The country shouldn’t have to endure a shutdown over “Trump’s temper tantrum,” Schumer said last week.

STOCK
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LEADING INDICATORS

DOW 25,826.43 +287.97 +1.13%	S&P 2,790.37 +30.20 +1.09%	NASDAQ 7,441.51 +110.98 +1.51%
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EXCHANGE RATES

Hong Kong Dollar	7.8078	Russian Ruble	66.4507
Australian Dollar	1.3564	Singapore Dollar	1.3652
British Pound	0.7843	Japanese Yen	113.2070
Canadian Dollar	1.3172	Malaysian Ringgit	4.1062
Chinese Yuan	6.7182	New Zealand Dollar	1.4368
Euro	0.8792	Philippine Peso	51.4908
		Swiss Franc	0.9957
		Taiwan Dollar	30.1002
		Thailand Baht	32.6325

Nation

Erica Hail pauses while preparing her children for their first day of school since the Camp Fire destroyed their home, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018, in Yuba City, Calif. The family, who lost their five-bedroom home in Paradise, plans to stay in a hotel room through February.

Children return to school 3 weeks after California wildfire

YUBA CITY, Calif. (AP)—Eight-year-old Bella Maloney woke up next to her little brother in a queen-size bed at a Best Western hotel and for breakfast ate a bagel and cream cheese that her mother brought up from the lobby.

And then she was off to school for the first time in nearly a month.

For Bella, brother Vance and thousands of other youngsters in Northern California who lost their homes or their classrooms in last month's deadly wildfire, life crept a little closer to normal Monday when school finally resumed

in most of Butte County.

"They're ready to get back," Bella's mother, Erica Hail, said of her children. "I think they're sick of Mom and Dad." At school, "they get to have time alone in their own space and their own grade and they get to just be by themselves."

Schools in the county had been closed since Nov. 8, when the blaze swept through the town of Paradise and surrounding areas, destroying nearly 14,000 homes and killing at least 88 people in the nation's deadliest wildfire in a century. About two dozen people remain unaccounted for,

down from a staggering high of 1,300 a few weeks ago.

About 31,000 students in all have been away from school since the disaster. On Monday, nearly all of them went back, though some of them attended class in other buildings because their schools were damaged or destroyed, or inaccessible inside evacuation zones.

Bella was shy and not very talkative but agreed she was excited to be going back. She wanted to see her friends.

The small, tidy hotel room with two queen beds has been home to the family of five for some two weeks.

Since they lost nearly everything to the fire, there was little to clutter up the space. The Hails are booked there until February.

"Bella, what time is it?" Hail asked her daughter, waking her up in their hotel room.

"Seven dot dot three five," came the 8-year-old's sing-song reply. 7:35. It was time to brush her teeth, comb her hair and hit the road for a nearly hourlong drive to school in the family SUV.

A few minutes later, at

seven-dot-dot-four-seven, they were out the door.

Some families driven out by the inferno have left the state or are staying with friends or relatives too far away for the children to go back to school in Butte County.

The Hails—whose five-bedroom, two-bath home in Paradise was destroyed—are staying in Yuba City, a long drive from their new school in Durham.

It was shortly before the 9 a.m. start of the school day

when they pulled up to Durham Elementary School, where Bella is in third grade and Vance is in half-day kindergarten.

Across the county, nearly all of the teachers are returning to provide a familiar and comforting face to the children.

"It's important that the kids are able to stay together and have some sort of normalcy in the crazy devastation that we're having now," said Jodi Seaholm, whose daughter Mallory is a third-grader.

Settlement reached in infamous 'Norfolk 4' case

RICHMOND, Va. (AP)—The city of Norfolk has agreed to pay \$4.9 million to four former sailors who were wrongly convicted of a woman's rape and murder based on intimidating police interrogations. A copy of the settlement agreement for the "Norfolk Four" was obtained by The Associated Press.

The state also has agreed to pay \$3.5 million.

The payments close out a decades-long case that drew widespread attention as the men's innocence claims were backed by dozens of former FBI agents, ex-prosecutors and crime novelist John Grisham.

"These guys can now put all this behind them and try to recoup their lives," said Tony Troy, a lawyer who represented one of the sailors.

The men—Eric Wilson, Daniel Williams, Joseph Dick and Derek Tice—were pardoned by then-Virginia Gov.

Terry McAuliffe last year of the 1997 rape and murder of Michelle Moore-Bosko.

Moore-Bosko's husband found her stabbed and strangled body in their apartment in July of that year after returning from a week at sea.

Williams, who lived in the same building, was quickly identified as a suspect because a neighbor told police he had a crush on the victim. Williams admitted to her rape and murder—the first of a series of confessions that the men, then-sailors at the Naval base in Norfolk, say were forced by police.

DNA evidence matched only one person: Omar Ballard, the fifth man convicted in the case. Ballard, who pleaded guilty in 2000, acknowledged he was solely responsible and is serving a life sentence.

The Norfolk Four have said they cracked after they were threatened with the death penalty and repeatedly called

liars. One of the men recalled a detective shoving him into a corner and showing him a picture of Moore-Bosko's bloody body. The confessions conflicted with one another. Ballard's account was the only one containing information matching the crime scene.

The detective who questioned them, Robert Glenn Ford, was convicted in 2011 of extortion and lying to the FBI in unrelated cases.

In vacating some of the Norfolk Four's convictions, a federal judge once declared that "no sane human being" could find them guilty.

Virginia Gov. Ralph Northam approved legislation earlier this year that gives the men \$3.5 million in state funds contingent on them resolving claims against the city.

Sen. Scott Surovell, a sponsor the legislation, said he was pleased that the city agreed to settle rather than fight the men.

ACROSS THE NATION

1 child dead, 45 people hurt in Arkansas charter bus crash

LITTLE ROCK, Ark. (AP)—A third grader was killed and at least 45 people were injured when a charter bus carrying youth football players from Tennessee rolled off an interstate and overturned before sunrise Monday in central Arkansas, authorities said. Arkansas State Police said the bus crashed along Interstate 30 near Benton, about 25 miles (40 kilometers) southwest of Little Rock. Police said most of the injured were children and that they were taken to hospitals in Little Rock and Benton. The elementary-school age children from the Orange Mound Youth Association in southeast Memphis were returning home after playing in a tournament in the Dallas area over the weekend, according to Memphis TV station WMC. Orange Mound is a historically black neighborhood that unites around its highly competitive youth football program. One of half a dozen adults on the bus, Damous Hailey, said the players from 10 Orange Mound Youth Association football teams had been playing in all-star squads. He told The Commercial Appeal newspaper that the bus swerved then flipped "about 15 or 20 times," before landing on its side at the foot of an embankment.

Sheriff: 11 still missing after deadly California wildfire

PARADISE, Calif. (AP)—The sheriff in a Northern California county where dozens were killed by a deadly wildfire says only 11 people

remain on a list of missing people. The number of missing in Butte County at one point hit 1,300 amid the chaos and confusion after the Nov. 8 Camp Fire. Sheriff Kory Honea says officials will work to track down the remaining people in the coming days. On Monday, he also revised down the number of dead. He says 85 have died in the blaze, not 88 as previously reported. Honea says three bags of human remains contained remains belonging to one person.

Schools: Teacher won't return after 'bloody Indian' comment

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—Officials say a teacher at an Albuquerque high school will no longer work for the school district after she was accused of calling one Native American student a "bloody Indian" and cutting the braid of another. Albuquerque Public Schools spokeswoman Monica Armenta said the relationship between the district and Cibola High School teacher "was severed." Armenta wouldn't say whether the teacher resigned or was fired. The statement followed calls from the Navajo Nation president for cultural sensitivity training within the schools as a result of the Oct. 31 incident. Navajo Nation President Russell Begaye says the teacher's acts were part of a "Halloween stunt." He says one teen's parents told him it was traumatizing. Armenta says the district's superintendent contacted the students' parents to tell them the employee would no longer teach at the school as of Friday.

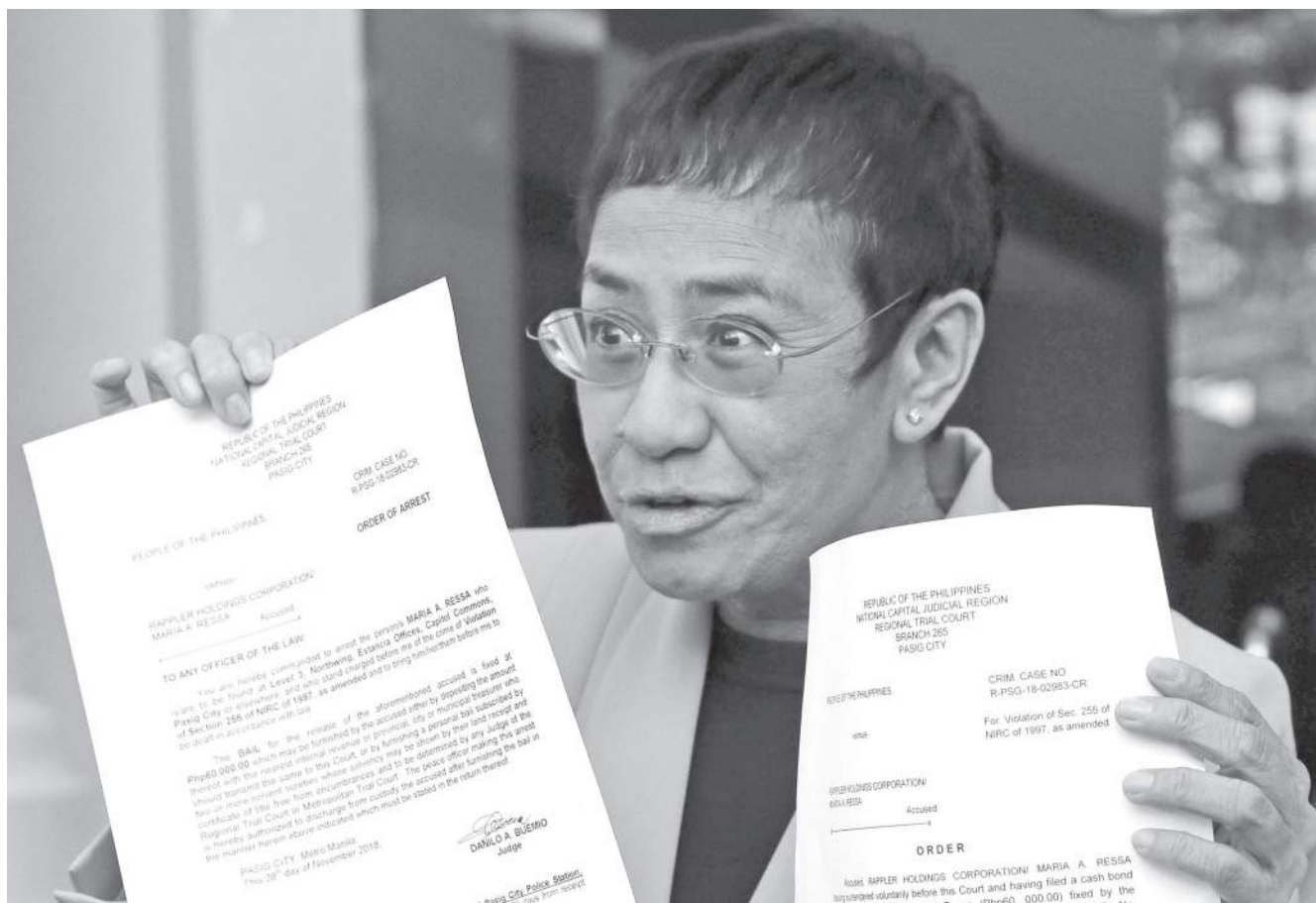
Asia

PH journalist contesting tax charges freed on bail

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—An award-winning Philippine journalist who along with the online news service she heads has been sued for tax evasion has declared her innocence and was freed on bail Monday after turning herself in for arrest.

Maria Ressa, CEO of the Rappler website, said that taxes had been paid properly by her news service and the five tax charges were politically motivated. She was freed on 60,000 pesos (\$1,150) bail on the one charge for which an arrest warrant has so far been issued.

Rappler has been critical of the government of President Rodrigo Duterte, who in turn has accused several independent media groups in the Philippines of biased reporting, including on his crackdown on illegal drugs that has left thousands of mostly urban poor dwellers dead and drawn condemnation by Western governments and U.N. bodies.



AP
Maria Ressa, CEO of Rappler, an online news service, who has been critical of the government of Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, shows documents after posting bail at the Pasig Regional Trial Court in metropolitan Manila, Philippines, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018.

news briefings after the government's corporate watchdog found that the organization violated a constitutional prohibition on foreign ownership when it received money from an international investment firm. Rappler, founded in 2012, rejected the ruling.

The brash-talking Duterte accused Rappler last year of being owned by Americans in violation of the Philippine constitution and said the news outfit was funded by the Central Intelligence Agency. Rappler denied the allegations.

"Arresting Maria will send a clear signal that the country's democracy is fast receding under a feckless administration that cannot abide criticism and free expression and will go to ridiculous lengths to muzzle all those who does not agree with," the National Union of Journalists of the Philippines said when news of the arrest warrant for Ressa was announced last week.

Ban Ki-moon urges N. Korea to take denuclearization step

TOKYO (AP)—Former U.N. Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon urged North Korean leader Kim Jong Un on Monday to take concrete steps toward complete denuclearization and gain the trust of the international community if he wants sanctions lifted.

Ban, a former South Korean foreign minister, said "this is the time" to achieve North Korea's denuclearization after nearly a quarter century of unsuccessful efforts, and that the North and the world should not lose this opportunity.

"I'd like to really advise the North Korean leader that the world is ready" to help his country, Ban told The Associated Press, specifically citing South Korea, the U.S., China, Japan and Russia. He said denuclearization is important for a better future for the two Koreas, including reconciliation and reunification.

"I hope this is the time—please do not lose this opportunity," he said.

Kim sharply raised tensions with nuclear and missile tests last year, but suddenly reached out to South Korea and the United States this year with a vague nuclear disarmament pledge.

North Korea is seeking security guarantees from the U.S. and relief from international sanctions.

U.S. President Donald Trump and South Korean President Moon Jae-in say tensions have eased significantly since then, but Ban, who is in Tokyo for an event organized by a business group, said the crisis is not over and that North Korea should fully disclose its nuclear weapons inventory to a trusted international organization such as the International Atomic Energy Agency.

"The crisis is still continuing because of North Korea's development of nuclear, missile and weapons program and materials," Ban said. "It is North Korea which should clearly state and show by taking actions, then I am sure that there will be no reason why the Security Council of the United Nations will continue to impose the sanction on North Korea."

Moon has facilitated a series of high-level talks between the U.S. and North Korea, including a summit between Trump and Kim in June, and has met Kim three times this year. After their third meeting in North Korea's capital of Pyongyang in September, Moon said Kim agreed to make a reciprocal visit to Seoul this year. If that happens, he would be the first North Korean leader to do so since the end of the 1950-53 Korean War, though the plan is still unclear.

"We need to hold government to account, and part of the reason I'm here is precisely that," Ressa said outside a Manila court. "I'm not a criminal, but I've been fingerprinted like a criminal. We feel that we did not get due process."

Ressa, who has worked with CNN, was the winner

of two prestigious journalism awards this year, a Press Freedom award from the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, and the International Center for Journalists' Knight International Journalism Award.

"I think the end goal of government is to try to make our

team lose focus, affect morale, but in the end the mission of journalism, especially Rappler, has never been stronger," she said. "We know we are doing something right, we know that what we are doing is critically important right now."

Duterte had already banned a Rappler reporter from his

PH leader jokes he used marijuana at SE Asia meeting

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte, whose controversial war on drugs has cost thousands of lives, says he used marijuana to keep awake at a recent regional meeting, but later disavowed his assertion as a joke.

Duterte made the comment Monday at an awards ceremony where he talked about attending last month's meeting in Singapore of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, and how the schedules of such gatherings that run from morning until late at night is grueling.

"I use marijuana to keep me awake," the 73-year-old Duterte said, referring to the Singapore meeting. However, he later told reporters he was joking.

Philippine police say more than 4,800 suspects have been killed in the drug crackdown that began in July 2016 after Duterte took office. Rights groups have denounced the killings as extrajudicial executions and say the crackdown is unfairly directed at the poor rather than the kingpins in the illicit trade.

Duterte is known for mak-

ing off-the-cuff remarks without much consideration for their content. Perhaps the most notorious was a joke he made in 2016 about the 1989 rape and murder of an Australian missionary, which roiled relations with Canberra.

After his remark about marijuana caused a stir, he

explained to reporters that he was joking.

"It was a joke, of course it was a joke, but nobody can stop me from just doing my style," he was quoted saying by ABS-CBN, a leading radio and television network in the Philippines.

"If I want to joke, I will

joke. Now, if you believe it, then you're stupid," he said.

In the past, Duterte has said he supported making medical marijuana legal, but his office said in May that he had reversed that stance. Possession of marijuana is punishable by a long prison sentence and a heavy fine in the Philippines.



AP
In this Tuesday, Nov. 20, 2018, file photo, Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, and Philippine President Rodrigo Duterte wave to the media following a welcome ceremony at Malacanang Palace in Manila, Philippines.

World

Mexico's 'common man' president pledges end to secrecy

MEXICO CITY (AP)—Mexico's newly inaugurated president kicked off his first Monday in office with something not seen in recent history—a news conference and a pledge to hold one every working day of his six-year term to keep the people informed.

Two days after taking the oath as the first leftist president in decades of technocrats, Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador

made good on his promise to govern as a common man and end decades of secrecy, heavy security and luxury enjoyed by past presidents. His workday began at 7 a.m. with a gathering of more than 100 reporters, photographers and TV cameramen all trained on the new leader, his gray hair slightly ruffled as he answered questions.

"Isn't that a change that I am here, informing you?" Lopez Obrador asked. While

past presidents have rarely held news conferences, Lopez Obrador promised to do so on a near-daily basis, much as he did when he was mayor of Mexico City from 2000-2005.

"He didn't hit the ground running, he hit the ground flying," said Federico Estevez, a political science professor at the Autonomous Technological Institute of Mexico, who was impressed by the president's ability to improvise and

speak for hours on end without using a teleprompter.

Estevez compared Lopez Obrador's start to the early days of U.S. President Franklin Roosevelt, minus the fireside chats. "It's very similar. And (Lopez Obrador) is going to build his party into a generational force, and the opposition is going to remain a minority for God knows how long."

On Monday, Lopez Obrador tackled a case that cast a long

shadow over the previous government, signing a presidential decree creating a truth commission to investigate the 2014 disappearance of 43 students in an apparent massacre. He then posed with parents of the missing young people, who displayed photos of their loved ones.

Prosecutors have said the students from a teachers college in southern Guerrero state were killed by a drug gang and their bodies incinerated in a massive fire. But conclusive evidence has never been found or presented, leading the students' parents on a frustrating, painful four-year quest for the truth.

"We have hope that he will be more humane," said Maria Martinez, the mother of one of the missing students. Referring to Lopez Obrador's two previous failed presidential

bids, she told him: "You set the example for us that he who perseveres will triumph eventually. You are a good example that one has to keep fighting."

Earlier, the new president arrived at Mexico City's National Palace in the same white Volkswagen Jetta compact car he used before taking office Saturday. He has refused the military bodyguards used by past presidents and travels with a small staff of aides who provide security. He usually travels economy class.

"I feel safe, protected and supported by the Mexican people," Lopez Obrador said.

At 65, he is the oldest president in the last half-century—six of his eight predecessors were in their 40s when they took office—and he has displayed impressive stamina.



AP

Mexico's President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador holds his first news conference as president, which started at 7 a.m. local time in Mexico City, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. M

Ukraine calls up reservists amid rising tensions with Russia

KIEV, Ukraine (AP)—Ukraine's president announced a partial call-up of reservists for training amid tensions with Russia, saying Monday that the country needs to beef up its defenses to counter the threat of a Russian invasion.

The Kremlin dismissed the Ukrainian leader's statement as an "absurd" attempt to inflame tensions.

Ukraine has also accused Russia of blockading its ports on the Sea of Azov and urged Germany and other Western allies to boost their naval presence in the Black Sea to help deter Russia from further aggression.

Relations between the two neighbors have been strained following a Nov. 25 clash in which the Russian coast guard fired upon and seized three Ukrainian naval vessels and their crews off the Crimean Peninsula, which Russia annexed in 2014 from Ukraine.

Ukrainian President Petro

Poroshenko responded by introducing martial law for 30 days in the country's border areas and barring all Russian males aged 16 to 60 from entering the country, a move he said was needed to prevent Russia from assembling destabilizing forces in Ukraine.

Poroshenko said Monday that some reservists will be summoned for training as part of martial law and some military units will be redeployed.

"Ukraine is taking its own steps in response to the threat of a large-scale Russian invasion," he said.

Over the weekend, Poroshenko said Russia has deployed a large number of troops along its border with Ukraine and alleged that the Kremlin intends to push inland into Ukraine.

Russian President Vladimir Putin's spokesman, Dmitry Peskov, dismissed Poroshenko's claims as an "absurd attempt to foment tensions."

"The accusations against Russia have no basis whatsoever," he said.



ever," he said.

Peskov also rejected Kiev's claim that Russia was blocking traffic to and from Ukrainian ports on the Sea of Azov, saying navigation has continued normally except for occasional breaks because of bad weather.

The separatist conflict in Ukraine's eastern industrial heartland against Russia-backed rebels has taken a toll on the nation's economy, reducing the cargo flow through the Ukrainian ports of Mariupol and Berdyansk on the Sea of Azov. The naval clash further stoked tensions—and 24 Ukrainian seamen are still in Russian custody in Moscow.

Vitaliy Sinhur, a dock worker in Berdyansk, said the movement of ships has significantly ebbed.

Amid the tensions, the Russian military said its forces in occupied Crimea were conducting drills involving Bal and Bastion long-range anti-ship missile systems.

Ukraine's deputy defense minister, Anatoliy Petrenko, said the country is talking to its Western partners to respond to Russia's "escalatory actions."

The U.S. and its NATO allies have strongly urged Russia to free the Ukrainian vessels and the crews.

WORLD BRIEFS

Nigerian president says he's alive, not an impostor

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP)—Nigeria's president took the extraordinary step of denying rumors that he died and was replaced by a body double, telling the country that he is alive and well. "It is the real me I assure you," President Muhammadu Buhari said Sunday to a group of Nigerians during a visit to Poland, where he is attending the United Nations Climate Conference. "A lot of people hoped that I died during my ill health," Buhari said. "I am still going strong." The 75-year-old, who was elected in 2015 and will run for his second term in February, has been in ill health throughout his presidency. But in the video of his remarks posted to Twitter by his personal assistant, he joked as he dismissed the rumors, to laughter and head-shaking applause by some government officials after a Nigerian posed a question about his identity. The government has been tight-lipped about Buhari's health throughout his presidency. Rumors of his death started in 2017, when Buhari spent seven weeks in London for medical treatment. They abated when he returned to Nigeria, but returned in full force last month, stoked by prominent opposition leaders and separatists. Nnamdi Kanu, leader of the separatist group, Indigenous People of Biafra, said that a Sudanese lookalike, named Jubril, had taken Buhari's place as a body double.

Qatar to pull out of Saudi-dominated OPEC amid Doha boycott

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—The tiny, energy-rich Arab nation of Qatar announced Monday it will withdraw from OPEC in January, a rebuke of the Saudi-dominated cartel as the kingdom's boycott of Doha continues unabated and a crucial meeting of the group looms this week. The surprise declaration could make Qatar the first Middle East nation to leave the cartel since its founding in 1960. It again injects politics into an organization that long has insisted it is nonpartisan, stealing headlines just as the cartel deliberates production cuts to halt a slide in global crude oil prices. Although contributing only a fraction of OPEC's overall production, Qatar's decision also throws into question the viability of the cartel. Once muscular enough to grind America to a halt with its 1970s oil embargo, OPEC needed non-members like Russia to push through a production cut in 2016 after prices crashed below \$30 a barrel. That's unlikely to change, especially as the United States regained the throne of the world's top oil producer. "The Qatari leadership is no longer interested in remaining an active part of an organization that largely shuns it," the Eurasia Group said in an analysis. "The two individuals that markets focus on are Saudi Arabia's energy tsar Khalid al-Falih and Russia's Alexander Novak. Qatari energy officials are not consulted, at the very least not sufficiently, and its leaders are no longer an active part of the organization's machine."

Good Housekeeping

Gardening tips and chores for December 2018

By JESSICA DAMIANO
NEWSDAY

'Twas the month of December
And inside our house
There was cocoa and embers
Enjoyed with family and spouse.
It was tempting to sit and enjoy and relax
But I needed to rake and seal all the cracks.
Cleaning and clearing and mulching called, too
As did wishing a happy new year to you!

1. Watch my video for tips on selecting a healthy Christmas tree that will survive the holidays at newsday.com/gardening101.
2. Happy Hanukkah!
3. Take photos of plants

you're planning to move in the spring, so you'll remember their locations after they go dormant.

4. No need to pull up parsley. Mulch it now, harvest for most of winter and expect a resurrection in spring.

5. Wash, dry and spray garden tools with a disinfectant before storing for the season.

6. Incorporate compost and lime in vegetable beds to enrich soil over winter.

7. Clean and store clay pots indoors or they may crack in freezing temperatures.

8. Apply anti-desiccant to broadleaf evergreens to help prevent dehydration over winter.

9. Till and turn soil in vegetable beds to disrupt the life cycle of hibernating insects.



TNS

Jessica Damiano offers tips for keeping the garden and home in order over December.

10. Keep a hose handy to water newly planted trees during dry spells but keep them drained so they don't burst.

11. Check poinsettia plants for white flies (or their eggs) before buying to avoid a holiday infestation.

12. Store seeds in paper envelopes or glass jars in a cool, dark spot. If refrigerating, keep away from fruit.

13. Indoor heating can de-

hydrate plants. Keep them off radiators and away from vents, and run a humidifier.

14. Dust or rinse houseplant leaves so they can "breathe" better.

15. Looking for the perfect gift for your gardening friend? Visit newsday.com/giftguides.

16. Keep your Christmas tree stand reservoir filled with water. Keep it away from radiators, and turn off lights before

going to bed.

17. Continue adding to the compost pile; it cooks year-round.

18. Keep mistletoe away from children and pets; its berries and leaves are poisonous.

19. Inspect arborvitae and junipers for bagworms. Hand-pick and destroy.

20. After snowfall, use a broom to (gently) knock snow from evergreens to prevent

buckled branches.

21. Today is the winter solstice. As long as the ground is frozen, you can apply winter mulch, but hurry: It's the shortest day of the year.

22. If there's no snow on the ground, water shrubs that are growing under evergreen trees or roof eaves where rain might not reach them.

23. Place houseplants by a south- or west-facing window to maximize sun exposure, and rotate pots with each watering.

24. Refill bird feeders, and don't forget to provide fresh water.

25. Merry Christmas!

26. Happy Kwanzaa!

27. Keep off the lawn when it has a frost or snow cover to prevent damage.

28. Reduce water and fertilizer on houseplants until spring.

29. Check stored bulbs and tubers, and mist if they're dry. Discard if shriveled or rotted.

30. Take advantage of post-holiday sales and stock up on gardening tools and supplies.

31. Opt for magnesium chloride when buying ice-melt products. It's the most effective and is easiest on the environment and pets.

TINY HOMES:

How small houses are decorated for holidays without sacrificing space

By JANNA HERRON
TNS

The key to decorating a tiny home for the holidays is the same as living in one: less is more.

But don't worry, you won't look like a Scrooge if you rein in the lights and wreaths.

"A little Christmas goes a long way in a tiny house," says Jennifer Perkins, a lifestyle blogger who has decorated model homes for TexZen Tiny Home Co. in Austin, Texas.

Here are five ways tiny house owners get ready for the holidays:

Spend little:

Owners of tiny homes, which are often built on trailers and measure less than 600 square feet, don't have to invest in more than a box of Christmas décor to deck out their wee spaces. Jenna Spesard, who traveled the U.S. with her tiny house and now lives part-time in it in Washington state, typically buys a few second-hand decorations for the season, and come January, donates them to Goodwill instead of storing for the next year.

Go vertical:

There aren't very many large surfaces in a tiny home, and what little does exist is usually reserved for everyday chores like cooking or drying

dishes. Instead hang garlands around doorways, wreaths on doors and seasonal signs on the walls.

Right-size your tree:

Artificial trees come in all sizes including skinny, pencil trees and ones made to tuck into a corner. Set trees on tables already built into the house to give them height, Perkins recommends. In past years, Spesard has created an outline of a tree on the wall with lights and ornaments, or bought a small potted tree that she planted later in the spring.

Swap out:

Instead of adding decorations, consider switching out everyday items with holiday-themed ones. For instance, swap out coffee mugs, kitchen canisters and throw pillows for festive ones. That way, you won't clutter up the teeny space.

Light it up:

One of the quickest ways to create a festive tiny home is with twinkling lights. White lights can do double-duty and be used for patio lighting in warmer months, Spesard says.

The best part? A few go a long way, so you avoid the frustrating tradition of untangling lights. "You can do the whole house with just four strands," Spesard says, "and it still looks like the Griswold's Christmas."

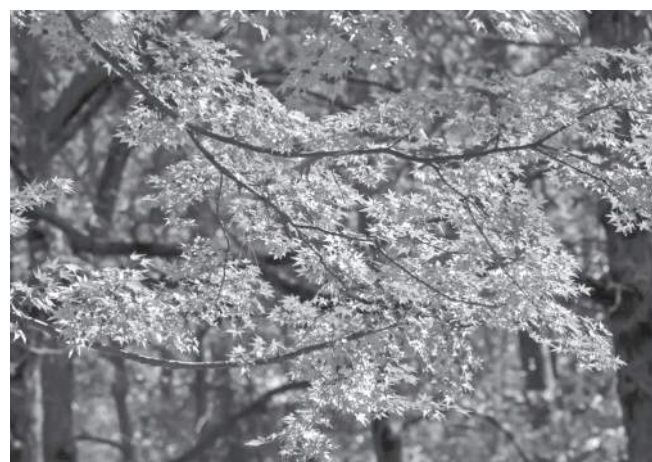
On Gardening: Japanese maples showing out in a tapestry of color

By NORMAN WINTER
TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

Currently western Georgia from Columbus to LaGrange is experiencing an explosion of color like many have never seen. Every maple species seems to be trying to outdo the next; as beautiful as they are, it is the Japanese maples that take your breath away. These small trees are ablaze with fiery red, orange, crimson, and yellow lending a tapestry of color to the garden that cannot be duplicated but by more Japanese maples.

The Japanese maple is known botanically as *Acer palmatum*. Nurserymen usually think of them as in two groups: non-dissected leafed and dissected-type leaves. Popular cultivars in the non-dissected group are the award-winning 'Bloodgood,' 'Oshu beni' and 'Senaki.' Sometimes we refer to these as palmate leaves.

Some of those in the dissected group are 'Crimson Queen,' 'Ever Red,' 'Tamukeyama,' and 'Waterfall.' Those in the dissectum group have more of a layered, mushroom shape in the garden and their heights are usually



TNS

Japanese maples are thought of in two groups, palmate shown here and then those with dissected leaves.

much shorter. Sometimes we shorten our description and call these dissected types. A visit to Mr. Maple's website, however will show you there is a lot more to the story.

A couple of years ago, Matt and Tim Nichols, the gurus of all things maple, stopped by the Coastal Georgia Botanical Gardens to get some seeds of our champion Oliver's Taiwanese maple. I quickly realized that their nursery and operation in North Carolina was epic in its scope and understanding of maples. I urge all maple aficionados to like their website www.mrmmaple.com.

You will see more Japanese maples and other species too that will make you dream of your possibilities.

Even though they are showing out, now this is a good time to plant. The Japanese maple prefers well-drained, moist, slightly acidic soils with morning sun and afternoon shade or areas of dappled light. Spread a 4-inch layer of fine pine bark and peat over the bed and till to a depth of 10 inches.

Dig the planting hole three to five times as wide as the root ball but no deeper. The top of the root ball should be even with the soil profile. Set the tree in the hole and backfill

to two-thirds the depth. Tamp the soil down and water to settle. Then add the remaining backfill, repeating the process. After planting, water thoroughly and apply a 3-inch layer of mulch.

Supplemental water during the summer and protection from wind goes a long way in preventing scorching and keeping the leaves looking their best. It also will help retain the leaf color in red selections.

Right now, in Callaway Gardens, Pine Mountain Ga., there is an indescribable tapestry of color thanks to the vision Fred Charles Galle had years ago. Fred incorporated Japanese maples in stunning displays throughout the garden including the Scenic Overlook and Azalea Trail.

Fred was Director of Horticulture from 1953-1979 and Curator then until 1983 and won just about every horticultural award given. He was both a WWII hero and a 'Horticultural Hero' to those of us who chose it as a vocation. His books, "Azaleas" and "Hollies: The Genus Ilex" are considered the finest ever written and should be in every gardener's library.

Life & Style

Atwood on why she's writing a sequel to 'The Handmaid's Tale'

LOS ANGELES—Margaret Atwood is writing a sequel to "The Handmaid's Tale," her prescient 1985 novel later adapted for a hit series on Hulu. Announced on Wednesday and expected in September 2019, "The Testaments" is set 15 years after the protagonist's final scene in the original book and is narrated by three female characters.

An informed expert on dystopian, patriarchal societies, the prolific Canadian author of "Alias Grace," "Oryx and Crake" and the "MaddAddam" trilogy will also be honored on Monday by leading women's rights organization Equality Now. The Make Equality Reality gala will also laud "The Hate U Give" actress Amandla Stenberg

and behavioral geneticist Sue Smalley at the Beverly Hilton hotel.

Atwood, 79, spoke with The Times on Thursday morning about penning a "Handmaid's Tale" sequel and writing work that inspires readers to take action.

Q: Congratulations on being honored by Equality Now.

A: Yes, I'm being honored but really, I'm helping them to raise money. They fight for women's rights, and that's the kind of feminist I am. They're based on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which everyone should go back and read because they've forgotten about it. They are real activists, that's what they do every day. I'm not a real activist. The difference between

them and me is that I'm just a person who doesn't have a job, so people like me have the privilege of getting to mouth off because nobody can fire them.

Q: "The Handmaid's Tale" has enjoyed a resurgence in popularity, from the Hulu series adaptation to the use of its signature garb in legislative demonstrations. Why write a sequel?

A: That's easy to answer. Number one, it's fun. But that's a very frivolous answer. Number two, I've been asked these questions by readers for 35 years. "Oh, come on, Margaret!" So it's time to address some of the requests. It's not a continuation that starts five



Atwood

minutes after the book ends and then I tell you what happens next. It takes place 15 years after the book ends. [I've had the idea] over the past five years or so. I'm almost finished with it.

Q: Your Wednesday announcement said it's inspired by "the world we've been living in." What did you mean?

A: The news has become so much more extreme. What about these people in Ohio that are saying motherhood should be mandatory? They haven't done it yet, they're talking about it. But when people talk about things like that, being the age I am, I'm remembering that Hitler said it

all in "Mein Kampf" and then he did it. If they had the power, they would do it. These ideas have been tried before.

What I'm fixated on now, of course, like all Canadians, is we've got our faces jammed up against the plate-glass window, looking into your country. What kind of shenanigans will they be up to next? What's gonna happen next? I've never seen anything like it, and neither has anybody else. On one hand, it's just riveting, and on the other hand, it's quite appalling.

Q: What's the key to any successful sequel, even if it's more than 30 years after a previous installment?

A: Who knows? Let's see if it does work. The jury is not in. But I did the "MaddAddam" trilogy, so I think this is true for any world invention: You have to be consistent with your own axioms.

I'm not going to say more [about "The Testaments"]. You can't pry it out of me. I can tell you that [my publishers] do have a cover, and they will be releasing it later. And they are going to release a newsletter that people can subscribe to. It'll probably be things like, "Got up this morning, had some coffee, did some copy-editing ..." Stuff you really need to know. That's their idea, that it's sort of like a diary. "Now it's at the printer, and I got it back, and there were 115 typographical errors!" [Laughs] Well, that is not going to happen.

Q: What women's rights initiatives have excited you lately?

A: Just yesterday, I was having a meeting about a new development under the umbrella of the Canadian Women's Foundation called AfterMe-Too. It will be a web-based initiative available to all that will provide people with the things they want and need the most: safe reporting, immediate counseling and third-party investigation. As in, not from within the company or educational institution because when it comes from within, is the main goal to fix our PR or to help the person? As we know, they tend to do what's best for them. It's been super troubling to watch over the years.

This will help people make informed decisions, presenting them with their options and chances of success and steps you need to take. If I do this, what will happen? What sorts of resources can I depend on? If I'm going to be a witness in a court case, do I get to have a lawyer? The knowledge of this is almost nonexistent among the kinds of people who are the most vulnerable.

Q: What advice do you have for authors aligning their fiction with social-justice issues?

A: People don't like being preached to when they're reading fiction, and avoiding that is manuscript-specific. And with any manuscript, some people are going to like it, some people are going to hate it and some people are going to be indifferent. You have a problem if everybody hates it, and you probably have a problem if everybody likes it.

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Hugh Hefner's college typewriter scores \$162K at auction

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The typewriter Hugh Hefner used in college was the top-selling item at an auction of the Playboy magazine founder's possessions. Julien's Auctions says the Underwood Standard portable typewriter sold for \$162,500. His complete set of Playboy magazines sold for \$76,800, and a gold ring with a hidden compartment containing a Viagra pill sold for \$22,400. Hefner's iconic smoking jacket fetched \$41,600. Hefner was 91 when he died in September 2017. The auction took place Friday and Saturday in Los Angeles. The proceeds will benefit the

Hugh M. Hefner Foundation, which defends civil rights and civil liberties.

Grammy noms to be released Friday instead of Wednesday

NEW YORK (AP)—The nominations for the 2019 Grammy Awards, originally planned for Wednesday, will now be announced Friday. The Recording Academy said Monday that because of former President George H.W. Bush's funeral and public viewing this week, it will push back the release of its nominations. It's a busy week for the entertainment world: Nominations for the 2019 Golden Globes come out Thursday. Bush's body arrived Mon-

day in Washington for public viewing, which kicks off four days of events that will include a state funeral at Washington's National Cathedral on Wednesday and a private service at Bush's longtime church in Houston on Thursday. Select nominees for the Grammys will first be announced on "CBS This Morning" and Apple Music at 8:30 a.m. Eastern. A full list of nominees will be available at 8:45 a.m. Eastern on Grammy.com.

Eddie Murphy and fiancée have baby boy, his 10th child

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Eddie Murphy and his fiancée Paige Butcher have a new baby boy. The couple re-

leased a statement through Murphy's publicist Monday saying Max Charles Murphy was born Friday and weighed 6 pounds, 11 ounces. The boy's middle name is a tribute to Murphy's older brother and fellow comedian Charlie Murphy, who died of leukemia last year. It's the 10th child for the 57-year-old Eddie Murphy, the second child for the 39-year-old Butcher. The couple has a 2-year-old daughter, Izzy. The "Nutty Professor" and "Beverly Hills Cop" actor has been dating the Australian model and actress since 2012, and they recently became engaged. The statement says Butcher and the baby are doing well. Murphy's oldest child, Eric, is 29.

A normal life eludes victim of repeated childhood abuse

DEAR ABBY: I am a 53-year-old woman who is a sexual abuse survivor. This has consumed every aspect of my life. It started when I was around 2, I believe, and was a daily occurrence until I was 14. My abuser was my paternal grandfather, now deceased.

I've sought counseling and therapy groups—whatever I could—over the years, to no avail. I just can't shake it. I have dealt with flashbacks, nightmares, failed marriages, etc. I just want to be and feel normal, and I don't know how.

Am I searching for something that does not exist? I don't know if you can help me, but PLEASE, if you have any advice at all, I would be beyond grateful.

LOST IN THE SOUTH

DEAR LOST: My heart goes out to you. You have experienced an atrocity. The groups you have been attending may not have been the right ones for you. One-on-one sessions with a licensed mental health professional, someone who specializes in working with victims of sexual abuse and/or PTSD, might be more appropriate.

A good place to start finding the help you're looking for would be the Rape, Abuse and Incest National Network (RAINN). It's the nation's largest anti-sexual violence network. You can find it online at rainn.org or by calling 800-656-4673. I wish you healing and success. Please let me hear from you again and tell me how you are doing.

DEAR ABBY: I'm a 29-year-old woman living on my own an hour away from my family. My parents were bitterly divorced 10 years ago, and a year ago I lost my father to cancer. At the time, my mother voiced her disapproval of my going to be with him on his deathbed. The day he passed, she told me not to be too sad because "he was thinking about suicide anyway." I have so much anger toward her for these and other things her emotional immaturity has led her to do or say.

On the one-year anniversary of Daddy's death, she tried to pick a fight with me for "obviously not wanting to talk" to her. It prompted me to do exactly that, and I calmly discontinued speaking with her.

The past two weeks without my mother's voice in my life have been the longest stretch of peace and confidence I have experienced in a long time, but her birthday is coming up, and I worry that I am being a bad daughter by continuing not to talk to her. What's more important -- healing the breach, or my own mental health?

CONFLICTED DAUGHTER

DEAR DAUGHTER: For both your sakes, do both if you can manage it. Try this: Explain to your mother the reason for your sudden silence. Set some firm boundaries. If she cooperates, you will still be able to have a relationship with her. If she doesn't, at least you will know you tried.

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.



DEAR ABBY: I have asked my husband to please not spit in the kitchen sink or to floss his teeth at the kitchen table. He responds by getting mad and huffing off like I am being a nag. Am I in the wrong? Does he have the right to gross me out this way?

DISGUSTED IN MINNESOTA

DEAR DISGUSTED: Considerate spouses refrain from doing things they know will annoy their partner. I'm sure if your gem of a husband told you not to do something that bothers him, you would respect his wishes. Well, it's supposed to work both ways.

Good advice for everyone – teens to seniors – is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

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Modric ends Messi-Ronaldo Ballon d'Or reign



PARIS (AP)—Luka Modric ended the long reign of Lionel Messi and Cristiano Ronaldo by winning the Ballon d'Or for the first time on Monday, while another first saw Norwegian forward Ada Hegerberg win the inaugural women's trophy.

Messi and Ronaldo had won every Ballon d'Or since 2008, and usually fought only each other for the greatest recognition among soccer's elite. Women's fight for recognition on the biggest stage took a big step with Hegerberg's award.

Modric won the Champions League with Real Madrid and then guided Croatia to the World Cup final in July. The midfielder was voted player of the tournament.

"As a kid we all have dreams. My dream was to play for a big club and win important trophies," Modric said. "The Ballon d'Or was more than just a dream for me and it is really an honor and a privilege to hold this trophy."

Ronaldo was second in the polling followed by France forward Antoine Griezmann. France's teen star, Kylian Mbappe, was fourth. Brazil star Neymar was third last year but only 12th this time. Messi was fifth in the voting, having been runner-up to Ronaldo the past two years and in the top three every year since 2007. Modric had never previously been in the top three.

"2018 is a dream year for me," the 33-year-old Modric



Real Madrid's Luka Modric, with the Ballon d'Or, center poses with Olympique Lyonnais' Ada Hegerberg with the Women's Ballon d'Or, left, and Paris St Germain's Kylian Mbappe with the Kopa Trophy, right, during the Golden Ball award ceremony at the Grand Palais in Paris, France, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018. APJ

said. "Throughout my career I realized hard work, persistence and belief in yourself in difficult moments are the foundations of success."

Modric's father was shown on the big screen wiping away tears during the ceremony at the imperious Grand Palais in Paris.

Ronaldo missed out on a record sixth award, which would have moved him one ahead of Messi. The last player to win it

before those two started dominating world soccer awards was Brazil midfielder Kaka with AC Milan in 2007.

Ronaldo also won the Champions League last season with Modric, before leaving to join Juventus. He scored a hat trick against Spain at the World Cup but he failed to make an impression when Portugal lost to Uruguay in the round of 16.

Mbappe and Griezmann scored in the 4-2 World Cup final win against Croatia. Mbappe earned a domestic treble with Paris Saint-Germain. Griezmann also scored twice for Atletico Madrid in the Europa League final win against Marseille.

France coach Didier Deschamps said a France player should have won the award.

"They deserve it because of what they did with the national team at the World Cup and also because of the trophies they won with their clubs," Deschamps said.

The 19-year-old Mbappe—the youngest player to score in a World Cup final—won the Raymond Kopa Trophy awarded to the best young player.

France Football magazine has been awarding the Ballon d'Or since 1956, and created a women's award for the first time this year.

Hegerberg is a three-time Women's Champions League

winner with French side Lyon and scored a tournament-record 15 times last season.

"I want to say thanks to France Football. It's a huge step for women's football," Hegerberg said. "I want to end this speech with a message to all young girls in the world. Believe in yourselves."

The outspoken 23-year-old Hegerberg said she won't play for Norway at the Women's World Cup in France next June.

Taking a stand against what she describes as a lack of respect for female players in Norway, she hasn't played for the national team since 2017 when it crashed out of the group stage of the Wom-

en's European Championship without scoring a goal.

After collecting her Ballon d'Or, Hegerberg told The Associated Press she has no plans to reconsider her decision taken to preserve her "authenticity and my values, as a person, as a footballer."

"A lot of things need to be done to make the conditions better for women who play football," she said. "It's all about how we respect women's football. I don't think the respect has been there."

"Sometimes you have to take tough decisions to stay true to yourself. I let them know, quite clearly, what I found wasn't working."

England to play Netherlands in Nations League semifinals

DUBLIN (AP)—England will play the Netherlands and host Portugal will face Switzerland in the semifinals of the inaugural UEFA Nations League.

The Portuguese will play the Swiss on June 5 at the 50,000-seat stadium in Porto. The English will face the Dutch the next night at the 30,000-capacity venue in Guimaraes.

The final of European soccer's new national team competition and the third-place game are scheduled for June 9.

Of the four semifinalists, all group winners in the top tier of the UEFA Nations League, only Switzerland has never won the World Cup or European Championship.

England is the only former World Cup champion and will be contesting its second tournament semifinal in a year after making the last four in Russia.

"We've seen the impact

of a successful national team can have on the nation last summer and we've also seen the belief has also been bred into our young players from winning at youth level," England coach Gareth Southgate said after Monday's draw, highlighting England being Under-17 and Under-20 world champions.

"So for the senior team to now be knocking on the door of the latter stages of a major finals is crucial for us. We want to go beyond where we went last summer and we are in the mix for what is a really important staging post in our development."

With one European title each, the Netherlands and Portugal are embracing a second shot at silverware.

"This competition is better than what we expected," Portugal coach Fernando Santos said. "For the coach it is very important to see their players in official competitions."

Japanese star lefty Kikuchi available to MLB teams



NEW YORK (AP)—Star Japanese left-hander Yusei Kikuchi will be available to major league teams starting Tuesday, with the New York Yankees expected to be among those interested.

The 27-year-old Seibu Lions ace will have until Jan. 2 to sign a contract with a big league club. The Lions would then receive a posting fee based on the dollar amount of the pitcher's contract.

If Kikuchi doesn't reach a deal with an MLB team, he remains with Seibu.

Kikuchi was 14-4 with 3.08 ERA this season, and was 16-6 with a 1.97 ERA the previous year.

Kikuchi, who played for the same high school as two-way star Shohei Ohtani of the

Los Angeles Angels, is 73-46 with a 2.77 ERA in eight seasons in Japan.

Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said last month that he was aware of Kikuchi's ability.

"I saw film on him during the pro scouting meetings," Steinbrenner said. "We talked about that individual. We've always been paying attention to that area of the world—some unbelievably great players came out of there. So it won't be any different this year."

Phillies get star SS Segura

In Philadelphia, the Phillies acquired two-time All-Star shortstop Jean Segura from the Seattle Mariners for veteran slugger Carlos Santana and infielder J.P. Crawford on Monday.

The Phillies also get left-

hand James Pazos and righty Juan Nicasio in the trade.

"Shortstop was an area we didn't get a lot of production," Phillies general manager Matt Klentak said. "Segura moves the needle for us as far as win expectancy."

Segura hit .304 with 10 homers, 63 RBIs, 20 stolen bases and had a .341 on-base percentage last season. He is signed through 2022 and is owed \$60 million. He also got a \$1 million bonus for approving the deal.

It was the second major deal of the day for the Mariners. They also sent second baseman Robinson Cano and closer Edwin Diaz to the New York Mets for five players, including two top prospects and outfielder Jay Bruce.

"Carlos Santana has been among the most durable players in the big leagues over the

last eight years and has been a fixture in the middle of lineups during that time," Seattle general manager Jerry Dipoto said. "He gets on base, he does damage at the plate and is quite an underrated first baseman. J.P. Crawford gives us a young shortstop who is very athletic and fills up the tool box; he hits, he runs, he plays defense, he throws, he has power. For the last four running, he's been among the top 20 prospects in baseball."

Seattle went 89-73 this year and hasn't made the playoffs since 2001, the longest postseason drought among the four major pro American sports. The Phillies, who added Santana and Jake Arrieta last offseason, finished 80-82 after leading the NL East in early August.

Warriors top Hawks, snap 6-game losing skid



ATLANTA (AP)—Golden State's Big Three went for balance. Stephen Curry scored 30 points, Kevin Durant had 28 and Klay Thompson chipped in with 27 as the Warriors cruised past the Atlanta Hawks 128-111 Monday night, snapping a six-game losing streak on the road.

All three stars have scored more than 50 points in a game this season.

This time, they spread the wealth.

"Our defense set the tone," Curry said. "Everybody gets to touch the ball."

With Curry scoring 18 points in the opening quarter, this one was never in doubt.

Golden State raced to a 34-17 lead in the first 12 minutes—Curry outscored the Hawks by himself—and the defending NBA champions won for only the fourth time in 10 games.

Playing for the second time since missing 11 games with a groin injury, Curry hit his first six shots, four of them beyond the arc. He finished 6 of 10 from 3-point range

"I think he's now back in the groove," coach Steve Kerr said. "He looked great handling the ball."

The Warriors led 61-47 at halftime and stretched the margin as high as 24 points, sending the rebuilding Hawks to their third straight loss.

"We needed a win on the road," Curry said. "We kind of didn't want to give them life."

Despite the win, Kerr said he's not pleased with his team's performance.

"We're not where we need to be by any stretch of the imagination," Kerr said. "We've been kind of uneven to this point."

John Collins led Atlanta with 24 points, and Trae Young added 20.

Nuggets 106, Raptors 103

In Toronto, Nikola Jokic capped a triple-double with three free throws in the final seven seconds, Kyle Lowry missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer and the Denver Nuggets overcame an injury to leading scorer Gary Harris to beat the Toronto Raptors.

Jokic made it 104-103 with a free throw with 7 seconds left, then hit two more foul shots with 5.6 seconds remaining before Lowry bounced a 26-footer off the rim.

Jokic had 23 points, 15 assists and 11 rebounds, Jamal Murray scored 21 points, and Malik Beasley and Juan Hernangomez each scored 15 points for Denver. The Nuggets won their sixth straight



Atlanta Hawks guard Trae Young (11) and Golden State Warriors forward Kevon Looney (5) battle for a loose ball during the first half of an NBA basketball game Monday, Dec. 3, 2018, in Atlanta.

and halted Toronto's winning streak at eight.

Kawhi Leonard scored 27 points, Serge Ibaka had 15 and Pascal Siakam 14 for the Raptors.

Harris scored three points in the opening quarter but did not play after the first because of a sore right hip. He came in averaging a team-high 17.3 points per game.

Thunder 110, Pistons 83

In Detroit, Steven Adams scored 21 points, Russell Westbrook added 18 and Oklahoma City ended Detroit's five-game winning streak.

Paul George added 17 points for the Thunder, who are 15-3 since losing their first four games.

Blake Griffin led Detroit with 20 points, while Andre Drummond added 13.

Detroit came into the game having won six straight at home, including the first five games on its current home stand, but fell six points short of its previous season low.

Detroit's offense continued to struggle in the second half without Reggie Bullock, who left the game in the first quarter with an ankle injury. The Thunder took a 71-51 lead midway through the

third quarter and led by 28 at the end of the period. In the fourth, Oklahoma City led by as many as 35.

Timberwolves 103, Rockets 91

In Minneapolis, Karl-Anthony Towns helped erase a 14-point halftime deficit to lift Minnesota over Houston.

Towns led Minnesota with 24 points and 11 rebounds, and Andrew Wiggins had 16 points. The Rockets led by as many as 19 in the first half before Minnesota stormed back to take the lead for good in the third quarter.

James Harden finished

with 29 points, and Clint Capela added 24 for the Rockets. Houston went cold after halftime, scoring just nine points in the fourth quarter and 29 total in the second half.

Minnesota clamped down on defense in the third quarter while shooting 7 of 10 from 3-point range. Houston shot just 38.1 percent in the third quarter and connected on 2 of 11 from deep.

Cavaliers 99, Nets 97

In New York, Jordan Clarkson had 20 points and 11 rebounds, newcomer Alec Burks threw down a two-handed dunk with 3.2 seconds left in regula-

tion and Cleveland avoided a fourth-quarter collapse against Brooklyn.

Tristan Thompson had 19 points and 14 rebounds for the Cavaliers, who snapped their four-game losing streak.

The Nets went on a 17-6 run in the fourth, tying it 97-all on rookie Rodion Kurucs' put-back layup with 18.9 seconds left. Burks drove past Spencer Dinwiddie for the dunk that sealed it.

D'Angelo Russell scored 28 points for Brooklyn, which has lost seven straight and nine of 11 overall, including their last six at home. Dinwiddie had 18 points off the bench.

Wizards 110, Knicks 107

In New York, Bradley Beal scored 27 points, Kelly Oubre Jr. had 21 off the bench and Washington beat New York.

John Wall had 18 points and 15 assists for the Wizards, who collected their just their third road win of the season and beat the Knicks at Madison Square Garden for the ninth straight time. Markieff Morris also had 18 points and Otto Porter Jr. scored 15.

Tim Hardaway Jr. led the Knicks with 20 points. Damyean Dotson scored 17 and Enes Kanter had 13 points and 16 rebounds for New York, which has lost three of four.

Clippers 129, Pelicans 126

In New Orleans, Tobias Harris made two clutch free throws with 4.7 seconds left to close out a 27-point performance, and Los Angeles held off New Orleans.

Dino Gallinari scored 24 points, and Lou Williams topped off his 20-point night with a long, contested, off-balance jumper that gave the Clippers a 127-124 lead with 6.4 seconds remaining.

The Clippers chose to foul quickly on New Orleans' next possession, and Darius Miller made two free throws with 4.9 seconds to go. The Pelicans followed suit with a quick foul but had little choice but to attempt a 3 as time ran out after Harris made his late free throws. E'Twaun Moore wound up with the final shot, which caromed off the rim for a long rebound as time expired.

Julius Randle scored a career-high 37 points for New Orleans, which has dropped six of its last eight games.

Skidding Bulls fire Hoiberg; Boylen takes over

CHICAGO (AP)—The Chicago Bulls came into the season thinking they would start to climb in the wide-open Eastern Conference with a promising group of young players. A coaching change wasn't part of the plan.

The skidding Bulls fired Fred Hoiberg on Monday and promoted associate head coach Jim Boylen in hopes of turning around a miserable season. Chicago is averaging 103.4 points — 28th in the NBA — and is getting outscored by 9.6 per game. They are a woeful 5-19, better only than Cleveland and Phoenix.

Hoiberg, who had to deal with a veteran roster that didn't fit his style early on and then injuries to key players starting in training camp, never

found his footing in Chicago. It added up to a 115-155 mark with one playoff appearance in three-plus seasons.

Executive vice president of basketball operations John Paxson insisted the decision went beyond wins and losses, citing a lack of "energy and spirit."

"We were in a similar situation last year at this time," Paxson said. "But the entire energy about this group was different back then. We felt that here in the last several weeks, that something's different. What we're lacking ... is a spirit about our team."

Paxson also said the Bulls are committed to Boylen as their long-term head coach and that general manager Gar Forman is "absolutely safe."

"What I hope we can do is own 'Bulls' across our chest better," said Boylen, who will be serving as an NBA head coach for the first time.

Boylen becomes the sixth coach hired by the current front office. He spent four years as the head coach at the University of Utah. Over 20 years in the NBA, he also has been an assistant in Houston, Golden State, Milwaukee, Indiana and San Antonio.

Hoiberg was in a tough position this season with four of the team's top players getting injured, a painful run that started early in training camp.

Forward Lauri Markkanen, the centerpiece of the Bulls' rebuilding plan, missed the first 23 games after spraining his left elbow at practice in

late September. His first appearance this season—a loss at Houston on Saturday—came in Hoiberg's final game for Chicago.

Guard Denzel Valentine will miss the entire season because of a left ankle injury. Forward Bobby Portis (right knee) has played in four games and point guard Kris Dunn (left knee) has appeared in one, though both are expected back soon.

"For us to sit here and think that just because we're getting guys back, I think that would mask the problems that we've seen," Paxson said. "We gave Fred an opportunity. He did a lot of good things for us. But I'm tasked with, Gar's tasked with, looking at the underlying things in the organization."

Eagles keep NFL East title hopes alive



PHILADELPHIA (AP)—Carson Wentz was at his best back on the move again.

Wentz tossed two touchdown passes, Darren Sproles ran for a score and the Philadelphia Eagles stayed in the hunt for the NFC East title with a 28-13 victory over the depleted Washington Redskins on Monday night.

The Eagles (6-6) won consecutive games for the first time since Nick Foles led them to a Super Bowl victory over the Patriots.

The Redskins (6-6) lost backup quarterback Colt McCoy to a serious right leg injury in his second game replacing Alex Smith, who broke his right tibia and fibula on Nov. 18. Mark Sanchez took his place.

Redskins coach Jay Gruden said after the game that, from what he understands, McCoy fractured his fibula and will miss the rest of the season.

Adrian Peterson ran 90 yards for a touchdown on Sanchez's first play under center, giving the Redskins a 10-7 lead. It was the longest run Philadelphia has allowed in franchise history but Washington's lead didn't last long.

Wentz, who hasn't scrambled much since returning in Week 3 from surgery to repair two knee ligaments, didn't run for any yards. But he ran around and made big plays when he improvised and on designed rollouts.

"Anytime he can extend plays with his legs, he's such a great athlete, that's an advantage to the offense," coach Doug Pederson said. "Being able to



Philadelphia Eagles' Golden Tate (19) is tackled by Washington Redskins' Ha Ha Clinton-Dix (20) during the second half of an NFL football game, Monday, Dec. 3, 2018, in Philadelphia.

do that allows us to stay on the field. He's gifted in doing that. It comes natural to him."

Sproles put Philadelphia up 14-10 on a 14-yard TD run in the second quarter. Wentz tossed a 4-yard TD pass to Jordan Matthews and connected with Golden Tate on a 2-point conversion to extend the lead to 22-13 early in the fourth quarter.

The Eagles twice failed to score inside the red zone and still managed their second-highest point total this season.

They had a first down at the Redskins 2 in the second quarter, but Josh Adams was stopped for a loss on fourth down from the 1.

They had a first down at the

Redskins 5 in the third quarter, but Wentz threw an interception right to Josh Norman.

Wentz finished 27 of 39 for 306 yards. He came out firing and led the Eagles to a score on their opening drive for only the third time season.

First, he scrambled out of the pocket, motioned Tate to go deep and lofted a 19-yard pass down the left sideline on a first-and-15. Wentz finished the drive by firing a 6-yard TD pass on the run to Tate.

"Play-action, bootlegs, nukes, getting me on the edge, gives me a chance to make plays and we used that effectively," Wentz said.

Dustin Hopkins kicked field goals of 47 and 44 yards for

Washington.

"We have to get a plan ready for Mark moving forward," Gruden said. "We've got to play great football around him, which we didn't do tonight."

Packers president Murphy to hire next coach

In Wisconsin, the Green Bay Packers' head-coaching vacancy should be appealing for one big reason.

He plays quarterback and signed a four-year, \$134 million contract extension this year.

Two-time NFL MVP Aaron Rodgers, though, will not be involved in the process of selecting Mike McCarthy's successor, but is free to provide

input, team president Mark Murphy said on Monday.

And that seems fine with Rodgers, who said he was focused on the Packers' final four games under interim coach Joe Philbin.

"I think there's an interest in who the next guy will be, but (Murphy and general manager Brian Gutekunst) and I have always had good lines of communication, their offices, like they say, are always open," Rodgers said. "I'm not needing to be involved in that process."

Murphy said Rodgers was

TSUNAMI

From Page 24

Nagisa Litulumar, Sari Barman, and Kevin Guerrero.

"Our target for the Guam meet is to update best times 100 percent. I am confident that our swimmers will perform very well in Guam. They are consistently improving despite the closure of the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool," said Kimura.

"Our practice pool is small, but Tsunami Saipan swimmers are training hard. I think, training is even harder at our current practice pool and they are up to the challenge and will go to Guam with confidence," Kimura added.

Tsunami Saipan swimmers train at the Hyatt Regency Saipan pool everyday and Kimura is thankful for the hotel management's generosity.

"Hyatt Regency Saipan is very supportive of our young swimmers. They also support our fitness course (beginners level) and we could reopen that class with their support. We are very grateful to Hyatt for their support and for understanding our situation af-

WOO

From Page 24

this third game, Woo seemed headed for another defeat when Ong took the first set. However, the Commonwealth junior player showed poise in the closely fought second set to escape with the win and extend the match. Woo then rode on the momentum of his second set victory to complete the comeback in the deciding

MCS

From Page 24

contested sets, 25-19, 21-25, 16-14.

In the first set, the Lady Knights' teams exchanged leads until Eun Seo Choi hit four consecutive aces to help MCS' varsity squad secure the opener. MCS' junior varsity team then fought back in the second set behind the serving prowess of Kaia Travilla and Aleia Santos, who completed five and four consec-

super-tiebreaker third set.

After the lung-busting triumph, the 14-year-old was scheduled to challenge Diegop Quispe-Kim in the quarterfinals yesterday. Woo also played in the doubles, but he and Tahiti's Manovai Elie bowed to Nathan Lim and James Newton, 5-7, 2-6.

The individual event in the December Showdown will conclude tomorrow and once it's done, Woo along with Elie

and Meheannu Larson, also from Tahiti, will see action in the team event of the 2018 14/U Australian Championships. The team competition will run from Dec. 7 to 12.

Lee competes in Orange Bowl

Meanwhile, another CNMI play, Carol Lee, is also off-island to represent the Commonwealth in the prestigious Orange Bowl.

forts would ultimately not be enough to give them the victory, as the more experienced varsity team finished off their younger counterparts.

Meanwhile, SIS 1 and 2 also played their home openers yesterday with the former sweeping the latter, 25-22, 25-16.

As for the remaining season-opening games, Grace Christian Academy's boys and girls teams were scheduled to face off Agape Christian School yesterday at the Eagles

Lee is in the main draw of the ITF Juniors Circuit clay court event and is set to challenge wildcard Ali Despain of the U.S. in the first round today at the Frank Veltri Tennis Center at the Plantation Central Park in Florida. Lee will also compete in the doubles event of the Grade A tournament with Cyprus' Eleni Louka and they will be pitted against the American pair of Alexa Noel and Nikki Redeljik.

also not part of the decision to fire McCarthy following the stunning 20-17 loss to the Arizona Cardinals on Sunday that dropped Green Bay to 4-7-1. Chances of making the playoffs are slim.

It appeared that most players had already left Lambeau Field by that point, with many Packers saying they had learned of the firing on social media or through text messages.

"Found out probably the same way you did at the same time you did," receiver Davante Adams said on Monday. "I was definitely surprised. But, it's a business and business is business, and that's what it is."

Rodgers was already home to celebrate his 35th birthday when he found out.

"I'm sure I found out the same way that most of you found out," Rodgers said, "and was just as shocked as many of you were."

He planned to reach out to McCarthy later Monday.

"I think him and I, like any relationship, we have our amazing times, we have our times where we butt heads," Rodgers said. "But the basis, like I said, was built on mutual respect and communication. ... We spent time together and growing our friendship and we accomplished a lot together."

ter the Marpi pool closed and Yutu came," Kimura said.

Watanabe still hopeful

Meanwhile, Tsunami Saipan senior member Aika Watanabe was selected to represent the CNMI in the 14th FINA World Championships, joining Nelson, Jinju Thompson, and Lennosuke Suzuki.

However, Watanabe did not make it to the tournament in China due to travel document problems. Despite the missed opportunity, she remains positive that she will get another chance to compete for the Commonwealth.

"I was really happy and felt excited when I got selected as one of the members of the team. After missing the chance to go to China and swim, I will continue to put effort in my swimming and hopefully I will be chosen again," Watanabe said.

Kimura believed his swimmer will get another opportunity.

"There will be another chance for her. It could be the FINA long course world championships next summer. Aika is the top female swimmer of CNMI now," Kimura said.



Modric ends
Messi-Ronaldo
Ballon d'Or reign

PAGE 21

Saipan Tribune Sports



KAN
PACIFIC
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24 WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2018

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MCS, SIS 1 take openers

By ROBY N. PAMINTUAN
pamintuanrobby@gmail.com
CORRESPONDENT

Mt. Carmel School's girls varsity team and Saipan International School 1 drew first blood, as the high school division games in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League finally kicked off yesterday.

The Lady Knights and Lady Geckos were among the eight teams that took a while to start due to the damage left by Super Typhoon Yutu on Saipan. With a longer than usual waiting



ROBY PAMINTUAN

Mt. Carmel School varsity team's Francesca Bucalig, right, sets up teammate Louisa Han, left, while Eun Seo Choi looks on during their opening game against MCS junior varsity team in the 2018-2019 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Association Volleyball League yesterday at the Knights court in Chalan Kanoa.

time, all teams were eager to take part in the volleyball competition.

"We were really excited for this CCOPSA season, but

then the storm came, and we weren't sure if the tournament would still be happening,"

MCS varsity team captain Louisa Han said. "After hear-

ing that the tournament was back up, we were really excited for this."

MCS' varsity squad took on its junior varsity team at the

Knights' grass court in Chalan Kanoa with the former staying off the latter in three tightly

See MCS on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Ji Min Woo, seen here getting ready for a return in a local tournament, is in Melbourne playing in the 2018 14/U Australian Championships December Showdown.

Woo survives marathon

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

CNMI junior player Jimin Woo came out victorious in a more than three-hour match in the 2018 14/U Australian Championships December Showdown last Monday at the Melbourne Park in Victoria.

Woo bagged his first win in the December Showdown after outlasting Gareth Ong, 3-6, 7-5, 10-8. The super-tiebreaker match ended after three hours and 19 minutes, moving Woo to the quarter-finals of the south draw. The victory was also the first one registered by a Pacific Ocea-

nia Team player, according to Northern Mariana Islands Tennis Association official

Jeff Race, who added that Woo achieved his target of making it to the win column of the event.

"Jimin's goal was not to be shut out this year in Australia's national championship event," Race told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Before surviving Ong, Woo was pitted against Brian Capalnean in the main draw with the Australian winning, 6-1, 6-1. Up next for the CNMI bet was Andrew Filep and the latter prevailed in last Sunday's game. 6-0, 6-3. For

See WOO on Page 23

Tsunami Saipan nominates 23 for Guam meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan head coach Hiro Kimura has released the initial

list of swimmers he is considering to field in the Guam Invitational Meet next year.

Twenty-three made the preliminary roster, including six who may make their debut in



Guam. Kimura will add a few more on the list, as he aims to bring around 30 swimmers in the Guam com-

petition scheduled for Jan. 12.

Leading Kimura's nominees is Tsunami Saipan captain Nelson Batallones, who is now in China, waiting to compete in the 14th FINA World Championships (25m). Joining him are Joseph Zhang, Juhn Tenorio, Alex Kim, Hans Xu, Isaiiah Aleksenko, Kean Pajarillaga, Kouki Watanabe, Shuman Barman, Aasish and Ashley Dangol, Asaka and Shoko Litulumar, Ayumi Obligation, Fiona Regan, and Maria Batallones. Completing the initial list are newcomers Julia Jinang, Cassie Regan, Sakura Hara,

See TSUNAMI on Page 23



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Tsunami Saipan swimmers pose for a photo during a break in their training session at the Hyatt Regency Saipan last week.